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December 2015

Inside the twisted genius of the Portobello Panto

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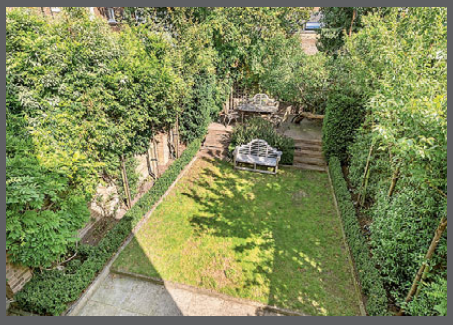

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ON THE COVER: FRANCESCA HAYWARD IN RHAPSODY. PHOTO BY JOHAN PERSSON, IMAGE COURTESY OF ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

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Avon House (5th Floor), Kensington Village,
Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS; 020 7605 2200

Publishing Director
Caroline Vernhettes

Editor-in-Chief
Vicky Mayer

EDITORIAL

Group Editor Mark Kebble
Mark.kebble@archant.co.uk
Editor Catherine McCabe
Catherine.mccabe@archant.co.uk
Assistant Editor Kat Hopps
Katherine.hopps@archant.co.uk
Property Editor Karen Tait
Karen.tait@archant.co.uk
Art Director Andrew Pye
Senior Designer Joseph Ross
Digital Editor Jemima Boost
Acting Digital Editor Katie Jones

ADVERTISING

Commercial Director
Eddie Pearce
020 7605 2286

DISPLAY
Senior Sales Manager Heather Jones-Hughes
Heather.jones-hughes@archant.co.uk
Account Manager Natalie Howard
Natalie.howard@archant.co.uk
Classified Executive Kathryn Tolley
Katheryn.tolley@archant.co.uk
Sales Support & Subscriptions Dominique Quinlan
Dominique.quinlan@archant.co.uk

PROPERTY
Property Account Manager Gareth Owen
Gareth.owen@archant.co.uk
Sales Support Co-ordinator Jessica Bardini
Jessica.bardini@archant.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION
Logistics Manager Ryan Michael
Ryan.michael@archant.co.uk

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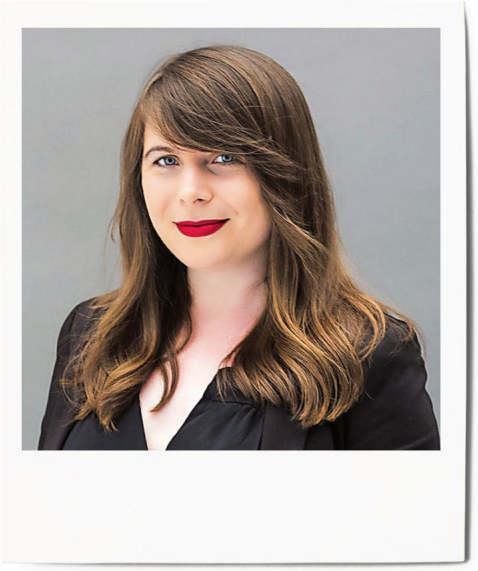
Distributed in Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove, Bayswater, Paddington, Kensington, Holland Park and Earls Court

Letter from the EDITOR



When, like me, you're not originally from Britain, there are certain traditions about this land that are going to leave you mystified. As an Irish person, it took me years to acknowledge the existence of rice pudding and pickled eggs. My face crumples at the use of the phrase 'bums on seats', and I still search for green pillars when I need to send a letter. And – until recently – the British institution of the Christmas panto had always left me cold. The idea of watching soap stars dress up as Aladdin to make innuendos about former *X Factor* contestants seemed so tinged with sadness. But then I discovered the Portobello Panto – an anarchic, unpredictable show that offers its proceeds to charities like Shepherd's Bush Families and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The concept was dreamed up by actress Anna Chancellor and friends in a Notting Hill living room back in the 90s, later finding its way onto The Tabernacle stage. This is the show that gave a mini Lily Allen her first theatre debut, starring opposite Miquita Oliver. It's hard not to get swept up in the vortex of rampant absurdity the Portobello Panto holds dear. Last year, it engulfed audience member Sienna Miller, who agreed to throw on a crocodile costume and join the madness. That's just how they do things in W11. This issue, we speak to the people who help the show go on every year. Find out more on page 16.

In Victorian times, when panto was at its zenith, London's theatres would compete with one another to have the best production tricks. One popular illusion was the 'star trap' – a hidden platform beneath a trap door that used weights to catapult a performer up onto the stage. At Portobello Panto, you get the same effect – nobody ever knows who's going to shoot through that door.

ELANOR TRAVERS (HAIR) AND ERIN FULLER (MAKE UP), GINA CONWAY PRIVÉ; GINACONWAYPRIVE.COM. PHOTO BY TOM DUNKLEY

Catherine McCabe, Editor

How to have a stress-free Chistmas, page 32

The best gifts for food lovers, page 27

Interior designer Sophie Ashby shows us around her Notting Hill apartment, page 40

A VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

Join us in Connaught Village for an evening of Christmas carol singing, festive treats, childrens' activities, our annual Christmas hamper competition, all followed by the magical Christmas lights switch on.

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RECOMMENDS

The best Christmas events for you to enjoy locally

1 WINTER WONDERLAND AT HYDE PARK

Winter Wonderland is worth a visit because of its wide range of activities. It has the UK's largest skating rink, over 100 fairground rides, a large Bavarian-style market, an ice kingdom, circus shows, giant wheel and ice bar.

Free entry with ticketed attractions, early booking recommended. Runs until 3 Jan 10am-10pm daily; hydeparkwinterwonderland.com

2 CURTAIN UP CHRISTMAS MARKET

TV star Julian Clary opens this year's starry Curtain-Up Christmas market, in aid of disability charity The Back-Up Trust. MasterChef semi-finalist Julia Gray will provide refreshments. The market will have over 40 stalls selling books, vintage clothes, jewellery, cakes, art and handbags.

£1.50 (donated to Back Up), 6 December 10am-4pm; St Mary Abbots Centre, Vicarage Gate, W8 4HN; curtainupevents.co.uk

3 CLARENDON CROSS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The gorgeous 'village' of Clarendon Cross gets together annually for this party, involving musical entertainment, food and drinks and other festivities. All participating shops will include a special discount on the night and a merry atmosphere to boot.

Free entry. 2 December 4pm-8.30pm, Clarendon Cross W11 4AP

4 THE NOTTING HILL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The organisers of this inaugural event have gathered artisans and retailers – from the luxurious to the simply curious – under one roof. A crèche will be taking tots while Father Christmas will be handing out gifts. Enjoy mulled wine, fizz, minced pies and savoury snacks.

Tickets (adv) £2.50 or £5 on the door. 28-29 Nov. 20th Century Theatre, W11 2QA; nottinghillchristmasbazaar.co.uk

5 BRITISH RED CROSS KENSINGTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

This luxury Christmas shopping event has 80 stalls selling chocs, handmade cashmere scarves and original art and toys. Home cooked food is available from the 'Amaze in Taste' cafe, with everything from lunch to high tea.

£10 incl. a glass of wine & canapé reception at 5.30pm, under-10s free. 25 November, 11am-8.30pm; Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street W8 7NX; redcross.org.uk

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ARENA

{THE FINEST EVENTS IN LONDON THIS MONTH}

REX FEATURES

POP-UP MOVIES

Choose your Christmas film classic at 20th Century Theatre

This December, Pop-Up Screens cinema returns to the 20th Century Theatre, screening a whole host of festive movies from the conventional (*Miracle on 34th Street,* 20 December) to the cult (*Bad Santa*, 19 December). There will be a full bar with hot chocolate, mulled wine, brownies and an overall theme of 'Cinema in the Snow'. On 19 December at 7.30pm, *The Muppet Christmas Carol* is up, starring Michael Caine in what is arguably his best role since the *Ipcress File* (we said arguably). Tickets £10 for kids and £20 for adults.

11-23 December, 291 Westbourne Grove W11 2QA; 20thcenturytheatre.com

Ice, ice baby
Celebrate in style at London's most beautiful ice-rink this December with Skate at Somerset House with Fortnum & Mason. By day, skate in the splendour of the stunning courtyard, and by night party away at the Club Nights. If that all sounds too much, treat yourself to a hot chocolate from Fortnum's Lodge.
Strand WC2A 1LA; 0844 847 1520; somersethouse.org.uk

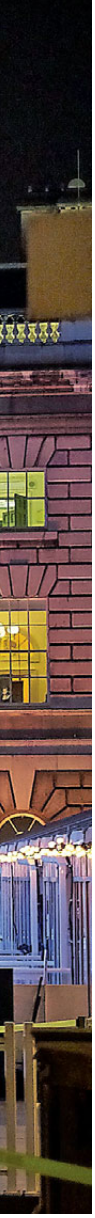
WAKE UP CALL

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty is a Gothic romance for all ages. The traditional tale of good vs evil and rebirth is turned upside-down, creating a supernatural love story that even the passage of time itself can't hinder. Last year this sold out in no time, so make sure you book now for its run at Sadler's Wells from 1 December-24 January, 2016.
Rosebery Avenue EC1R 4TN; 020 7863 8000; sadlerswells.com

Online
See more Christmas events at theresident.co.uk

STAR PERFORMER

Award-winning actress Sheridan Smith is back on stage at the Menier Chocolate Factory, starring in a major new revival of Funny Girl until 5 March, 2016. The actress plays the role of Fanny Brice, who rose from the Lower East Side of New York to become one of Broadway's biggest stars.
menierchocolatefactory.com



Snow bound

The multi-international, award-winning Slava's Snowshow returns to Southbank Centre for a fifth consecutive Christmas season, playing the Royal Festival Hall from 16 December-3 January, 2016. A combination of theatrical clowning and breathtaking visual effects, it is a show unlike anything you have ever seen before, where a bed becomes a boat, a web of cotton envelops the audience and one tiny piece of paper becomes a snowstorm.
Belvedere Road SE1 8XX; 0844 847 9910; slavasnowshow.co.uk

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Tall tale

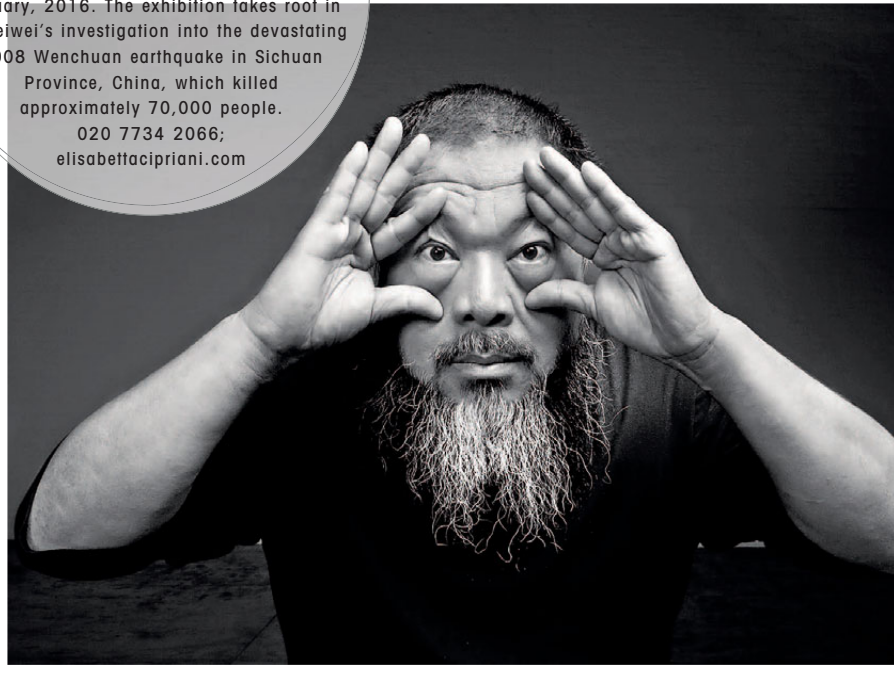
Based on the beloved 2003 film starring Will Ferrell, Elf the Musical is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.
On now until 2 January, 2016, at the Dominion Theatre, Elf the Musical features a cracking cast – including Ben Forster as Buddy, Kimberley Walsh as Jovie, and Joe McGann as Walter Hobbs – and songs by Tony Award nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin.
Find out more at elfthemusical.co.uk and readers of this magazine can save 5% when booking with Shows in London via theresident.co.uk/theatre or by calling 020 3567 0620

Silver linings

Keep the weekend of 27-29 November free as Harrods will be kicking off the festive season in style with their Festival of Christmas. Expect face painting and magicians, through to custom illustrations and a whole host of food offerings. We love the idea of British sock manufacturer Pantherella offering complimentary sock monogramming on any purchase.
See more at harrods.com

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Elisabetta Cipriani is hosting a unique exhibition with renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, Rebar in Gold, running until 16 January, 2016. The exhibition takes root in Ai Weiwei's investigation into the devastating 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan Province, China, which killed approximately 70,000 people.
020 7734 2066;
elisabettacipriani.com



HUGO GLENDINNING; JAMES BRYANT; ALASTAIR MUIR; GAO YUN

Not your average panto

The Portobello Panto has won famous fans in Kate Moss and Lily Allen, so who's behind it all? Will Gore takes a look behind the curtain

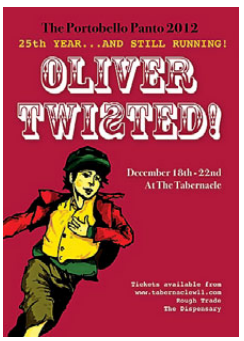
Every Christmas, madness descends on Notting Hill in the form of the Portobello Panto. The idea for a regular Christmas production performed by and for the good people of W11 was dreamed up in the living room of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* actor Anna Chancellor, with the help of denizens of the Warwick Castle pub Ray Jones, Evie Doggart and *Under Milk Wood* director Kevin Allen, back in 1990. The first show, a nativity that somehow morphed into Cinderella, was performed at The Cobden Club, in Kensal Road, and since that inaugural effort, this defiantly anarchic panto has become a staple of Notting Hill life, raising thousands of pounds for charity and attracting a whole Groucho Club's worth of celebrities onto the stage in the process.

An annual highlight sees Mick Jones from The Clash sing 'Should I Stay or Should I go?'

The organised chaos of the Portobello Pantomime is reflected in the phone interview I embark on with the team currently in charge of this sacred institution. I'm joined down the line by long-term custodians, Antony Easton and Piers Thompson, and young writers Lexi Self and Kitty Wordsworth (who also takes on day-to-day producing duties). They talk me through the panto's colourful history and discuss this year's production, Dick Whit, which will be running at The Tabernacle from 16-19 December. A dog enters the fray with an occasional enthusiastic bark, too.

The key, it seems, to the success of the Portobello Panto is in its total embrace of unbridled silliness, as Antony perfectly demonstrates, 'one year I appeared alongside Davina McCall as a shepherd in a John Motson sheepskin coat turned inside out, serenading the baby Jesus, who was being played by a six-foot four guy dressed in an industrial bin liner – that's the level we're at.'

And Davina MacCall is far from being the only famous name to have a panto cameo. The list of big names to have appeared includes Kate Moss, Tom Hollander, and Stephen Fry. And it goes on: Lilly Allen, Ray Winstone and even David Gest have been roped in. An annual highlight sees Mick Jones from the Clash sing *Should I Stay or Should I Go?* and last year Sienna Miller hit the headlines after starring in the final night of Peter Panto as the time-conscious crocodile. 'I asked her during the interval if she fancied chucking the costume on and she was up for it,' says Kitty. 'Poor old Sienna had to wear the sweaty costume that all the other people had worn on the previous nights.'



At this point, Antony gives actors Juliet Cowan and Colin Salmon (along with his family) special mention for their contribution in recent years. With the help of Piers, he also pays fulsome tribute to Roger Pomphrey, a filmmaker and musician, who directed the show on and off for 18 years, and who sadly passed away last January. 'Roger was much loved so it was a disaster when he died, but, like all things, the panto is bigger than the people in it and it goes on,' adds Antony.

The show does indeed go on this year and, Lexi, in a manner his dad, the author Will Self, would be proud of, does his best to discuss the serious side of the version of Dick Whittington he's creating. 'Although there's stuff in the show about where we live in west London, we'll make it contemporary enough so people can see nods to the stories of the day,' he says, before adding that the script will bring a modern spin on the idea of people coming to London to seek their fortune.

All of this lunacy is in the name of good causes, with the show raising an estimated £6,000 each year, split between the Shepherd's Bush Families Project and Great Ormond Street Hospital. And this year the Portobello Panto is looking to raise even more by attracting sponsorship to the tune of £10,000. 'We want someone who can partner with us and add to our charity donations,' Antony explains.

Towards the end of our chat, Kitty describes working on the Portobello Pantomime as like being 'being part of a family', and it's a family that's always happy to welcome newbies. 'From the middle of November the Tabernacle gets taken over in the evenings by the panto so anyone can stick their head in,' says Piers. 'It's always worth swinging by and saying, "I'm a brilliant choreographer, can I help?"'

Dick Whit, The Tabernacle, 16-19 December, for more information visit tabernaclew11.com

Clockwise from top left: Mick Jones & co, Colin Salmon energising the panto crowd, David Gest with a fellow performer, Kate Moss and Jamie Hince enjoying the show, Tom Hollander takes the stage, Ray and Jaime Winstone, centre: a young Lily Allen has her first shot at the limelight

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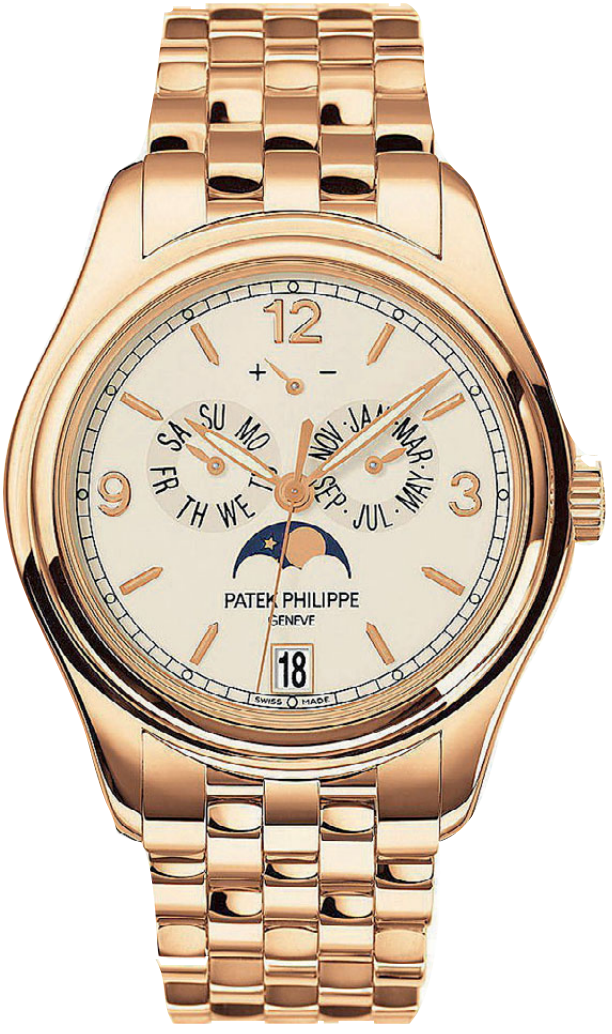


SPARKLING INSPIRATION

Find the perfect gifts for the ones you love in our eight-page guide

Love it or loathe it, Christmas shopping is as inescapable as mince pies and Santa songs during the festive build-up – and best avoided on Christmas Eve if you value your sanity. So, let us ease the pressure with our comprehensive list of ideas. We have carefully selected a variety of beautiful gifts for gadget fanatics, style connoisseurs, foodies, children and lovers of homeware... just take your pick. If that's not enough, we've also compiled some top tips on how to prepare for Christmas festivities, whilst treating yourself too. So, put your feet up, grab a glass of fizz and get someone to pass you the chocolates as you read on...

Style Lovers

Stylish gifts for fashion-conscious men and women

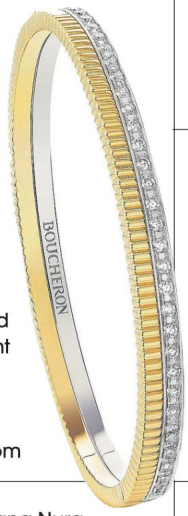
Black Cashmere sweater with gold stars, £165, wyselondon.co.uk

Burberry Gold Glow Fragranced Luminising Powder, £45, burberry.com

Red silk-lined leather gloves, £65, dents.co.uk

Fornasetti Profumi Astronomici Scented Candle, £125, selfridges.com

Black lace dress, £275, jcrew.com/uk



18kt yellow and white gold Quatre Radiant bangle with diamonds, £16,200, boucheron.com

Cushion-cut diamond ring in Platinum, POA, tiffany.co.uk

Bionda Castana Nura gold leather shoes, £550, biondacastana.com

Valentino Rockstud shoulder bag £1,310, harveynichols.com

My Burberry fragrance, £90, uk.burberry.com

Wispy Superfine Hanover print scarf, £265, beggandcompany.com

Ettinger Navy Bakerloo Portfolio Case, £810, ettinger.co.uk

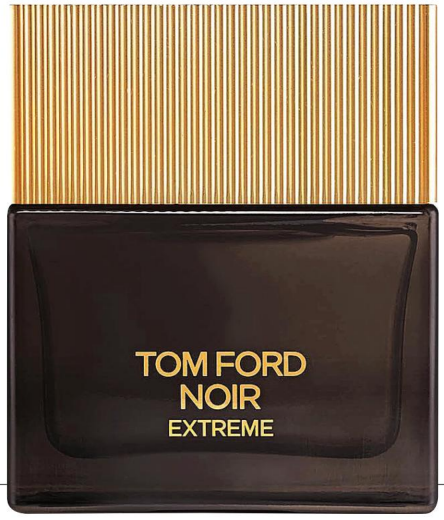
Rebel Lipstick, £15.50 maccosmetics.co.uk

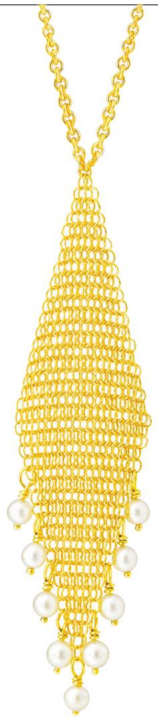
Christy's wool Fedora Hat, £75, reiss.com

Linen & Cambrai Cotton pyjamas, £69.99, free shipping, jjoneslondon.com

18kt yellow and white gold Quatre Radiant bangle with diamonds, £16,200, boucheron.com

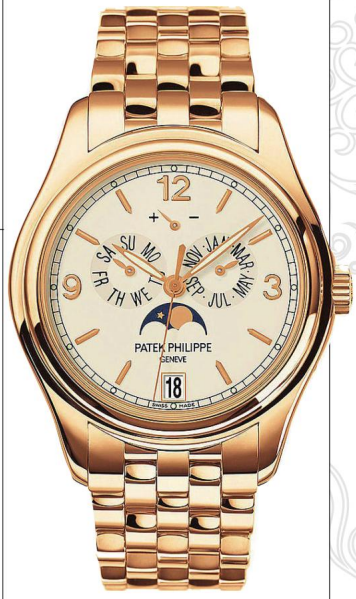
Tom Ford Noir Extreme Eau de Parfum, £70, tomford.com





Esla Peretti pendant in 18k gold with freshwater pearls, £830, Tiffany.co.uk

Foxley black velvet slippers with glitter dots, £525, jimmychoo.com



Patek Philippe Men's Annual Calender watch in rose gold, POA at Boodles, boodles.com

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Gilbert & George Fruiters (2006) print, £1,224, © the artist, courtesy White Cube, whitecube.com/shop

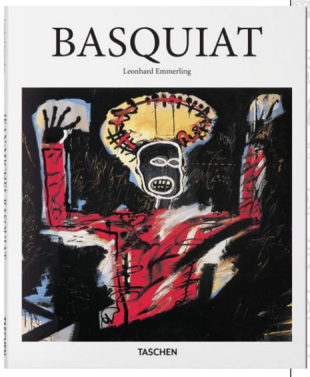
A Portrait of Fashion: Six Centuries of Dress at the National Portrait Gallery book, £24.95, npg.org.uk/shop

Tate membership (incudes free, unlimited entry to all Tate exhibitions), £70 or £110 with guest, membership.tate.org.uk

Odyssey Debut Trumpet with case, gold, £199.95, johnlewis.com

Overnight bag with book illustrations by Serge Seidlitz, £35, lutyensrubinstein.co.uk

Jean-Michel Basquiat art book, published by Taschen, £8.99, taschen.com



Ai Weiwei push up wood figure, £6, Royal Academy Gift Shop, shop.royalacademy.org.uk

Prince Charles Cinema lifetime membership, £50 (includes 2 free tickets, reduced ticket fees and news on special events), princecharlescinema.com

Home Lovers

Treat them to an interiors gift they will love and cherish

Savannah Story zebra bust, £58, anthropologie.com

Carousel mirror, £1,982, christopherguy.com

Mini votive candle set, £70, bellafreud.com

Marble teapot, £345, astierdevillatte.com

Elliot utensil pot, £15, habitat.co.uk

Four-slice toaster by Charlene Mullen, £99.99, dualit.com

Dazzle porcelain macaw, £1,620, lladro.com

Alfredo horn spoons, from £45 for 4, heals.com

R7 all-in-one music system in walnut, £2,000, ruarkaudio.com

Small metallic leather drum ottoman, £280, alma1938.com

STORY: KARA O'REILLY

Fabric-wrapped chandelier, from £700, squintlimited.com

Tudor Grid embroidered and beaded cushion, £255, casahito.com

Centre Point limited-edition Original 1227 desk light by Eley Kishimoto, from £200, anglepoise.com

Agate ware bowl by JoJo Rowley, from £75, quiirk.co.uk

Brew copper-finish coffee set, from £75 for the coffee caddy, tomdixon.net

Lucite chess set, £795, uk.jonathanadler.com

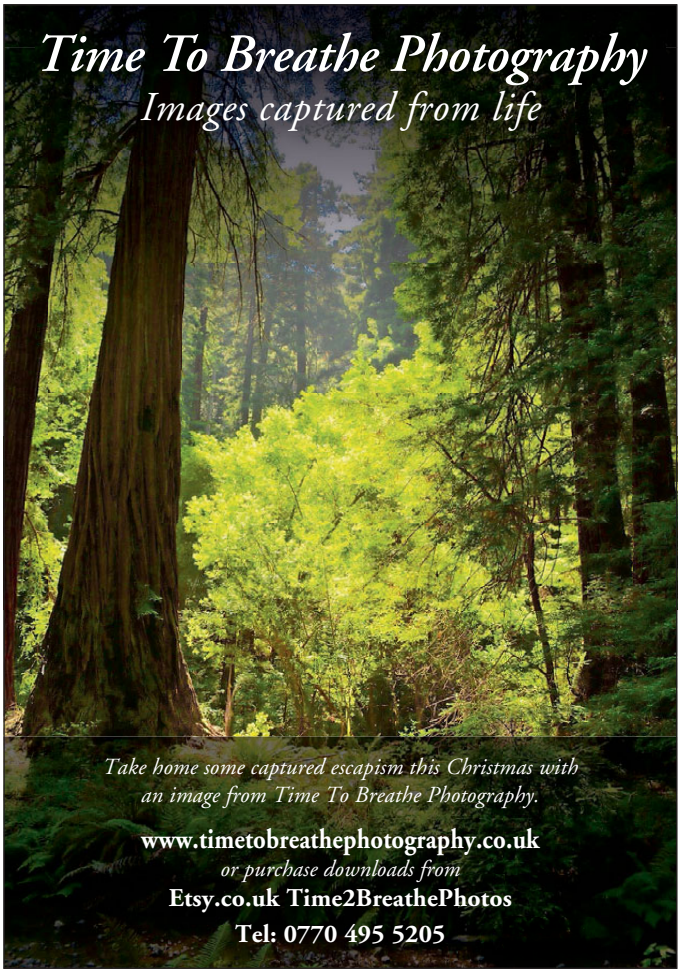
Through the Looking Glass Plate by Eleanor Stewart, £40, from The British Library, shop.bl.uk

Podium glass and marble vase, from £345, leebroom.com

Malone side table, £250, abigailahern.com

William Morris Martello footstool, £1,295, houseofhackney.com

Elizabeth cabinet, £2,660, mineheart.com



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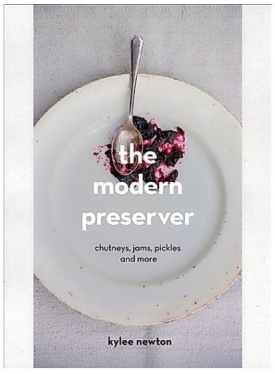
Islay whisky connoisseur set, £295, lsa-international.com

Thames tea set in gold, £165, snowdenflood.com

The Modern Preserver, £20, from all good bookshops



Pierre Marcolini hamper, £149, harrods.com

Pisa copper cafetière, £30, shop.rmg.co.uk

Camembert baking set, £18.95, rigbyandmac.com

Malachite ice bucket, £198, decanter, £198, glasses, £25 each, uk.jonathanadler.com

Baci di Dama Jar 875g, £17.95 carluccios.com

Assorted Christmas Box £27.25; godivachocolates.co.uk

Decanter, £48.95, annabeljames.co.uk

Conversation placemat set, £35, theschooloflife.com

Enamel teapot, £39.95, minimoderns.com

loaf

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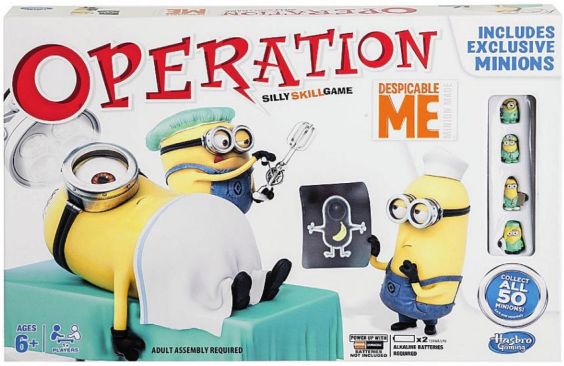
Toy Lovers

You'll give Santa a good name with these cool buys for kids

Fendi Monster all-in-one
£145, harrods.co.uk



Despicable Me 2 Operation game, £23.95,
020 7730 1234, harrods.com

Pewter Sequinned Dress,
£98.43, smallable.com

Steiff Paddington Bear,
£119, steiff.com

Juju Ladybug lunch box,
£30. gigibrooks.com

Musical tin box, £8.
hedgehogshop.co.uk

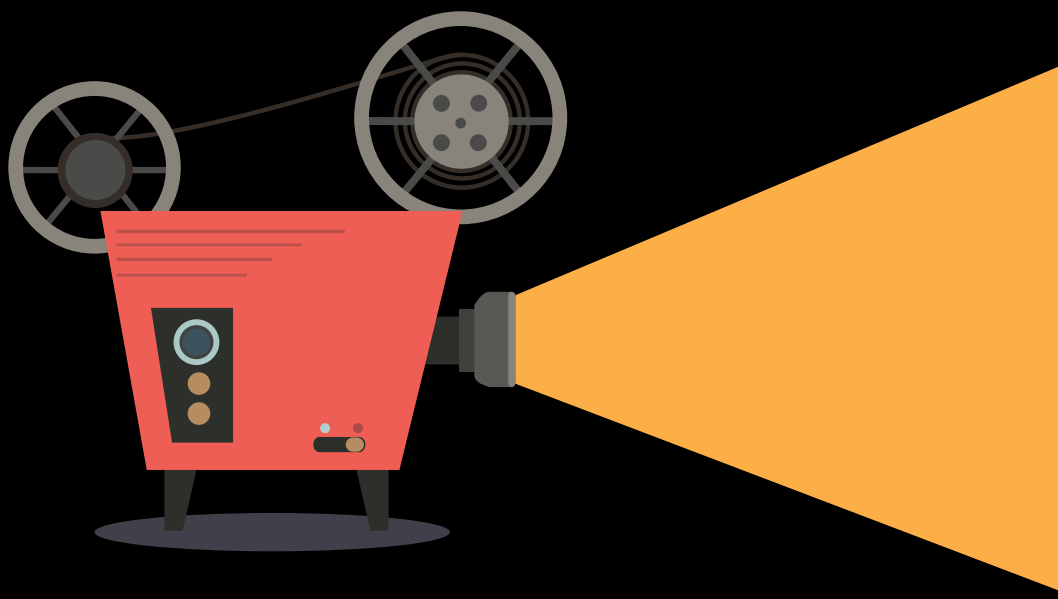
Spy 3D view
googles, £15.
johnlewis.com

Robot Money Box, £6.
Paperchase, 63 High Street,
Putney SW15 1SR; 020 8780 5203;
paperchase.co.uk

Hedgehog Grand Racer Car, £185,
available from hedgehogshop.co.uk

State of the art

4k home cinema



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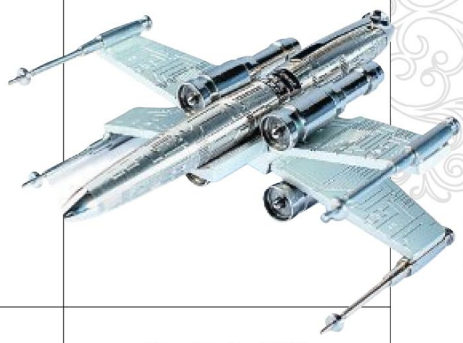
Vintage-inspired View Quest DAB Radio, £100, qvcuk.com



S.T. Dupont Star Wars limited edition fountain pen, £1,400, available from The Great Writing Room at Harrods, Brompton Road, London SW1X 7XL

BeoLab 18 speaker, £3,730, bang-olufsen.com/en

Jawbone UP2 band, £89.99, jawbone.com

Apple Watch, £299, apple.com

Silent Violin, £592, yamahamusiclondon.com

Mando Footloose IM e-bike, £1,999, mandofootloose.com

Coravin Wine Access System, £269, coravin.co.uk

Meade Infinity 70 Telescope, £99, currys.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MADE EASY

December is an overwhelming time of year, but it doesn't always have to be this way. Want to take the stress out of the festive prep? Here's how

BRANCH OUT

You can't beat the ritual of picking out a Christmas tree – but when you're pushed for time, navigating a 6ft fir into your living room can be a nightmare. Why not get the kilted helpers at Pines and Needles to do it for you? This family-run Scottish business delivers sustainably-grown trees across the UK, and, if you desire it, they'll even bring them pre-decorated. A plain 6ft Nordmann Fir is priced at £74.90, and you can add LED lights for £29.95.

020 3384 9420; pinesandneedles.com

MOBILE HAIR AND BEAUTY

Fancy a facial ahead of a Christmas party, but don't want to venture into the cold? Try Gina Conway Privé, a new service launched by the owner of the Westbourne Grove Gina Conway Aveda Salon. One of Gina's exceptionally-friendly Privé staff members will travel direct to your home to provide a treatment: hair, make-up, manicures – just take your pick. They also offer at-home massages (£89p/h), which means you won't have to put yourself through a commute – you can just enjoy the sleepy, post-treatment relaxation in your own living room. If you colour your hair, save on time by having that done at your place too. Steve Curran, a top hair colourist who's tended the locks of both Sienna Miller and Kate Moss, will visit any London postcode to give your chosen tone a refresh, prices start at £120.

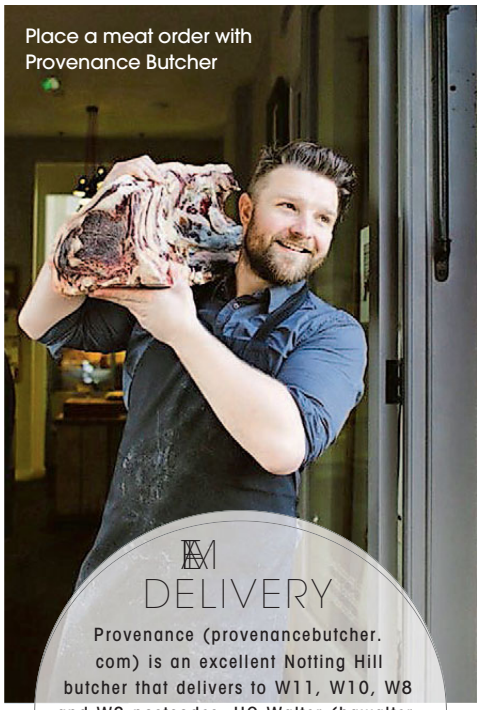
ginaconwayprive.com, 020 8234 6899; Steve Curran, toplondonhaircolour.com

GIFT FIX

Why traipse around Oxford Circus saddled with soggy Topshop bags when you can shop from home? The Mint List (themintlist.com), an unconventional online 'emporium' run by Kensal Green

Off to a Christmas party? Have your hair done at home with Gina Conway Prive

Online emporium The Mint List is a great source for rare and unusual gifts



Place a meat order with Provenance Butcher

DELIVERY

Provenance (provenancebutcher.com) is an excellent Notting Hill butcher that delivers to W11, W10, W8 and W2 postcodes. HG Walter (hgwalter.com) and famed Holland Park butcher C. Lidgates (lidgates.com) will also be offering home delivery ahead of Christmas. Demand will be high, so it's best to book well in advance.

resident Camilla Kelly, is a great source for unusual gifts. Know anyone that would appreciate 1980s Garbage Pail Kids cards or a Fornasetti plate? It's all here. Alternatively, try gifting someone a memory with a tailored experience day; a 30 minute introductory flying lesson is available from £129 at virginexperiencedays.co.uk. And for beautifully-presented luxury gifts, enlist the help of the Gift Concierge, an in-store service at Harrods. Contact its advisors by email, and they'll help you find the right handbag or malt whiskey to be professionally wrapped and delivered straight to you or the lucky recipient.

Contact giftconcierge@harrods.com or call 020 7893 8000 for details

RELAX, IT'S CHRISTMAS

Have a hiatus from present buying with a trip to Cowshed, which is offering a two-hour 'Christmas Spa-rkle' experience. This includes a tension-easing back massage, followed by a rejuvenating facial. The treatment will finish with a quick manicure and pedicure while you enjoy a glass of sparkling wine, price: £145 for 120 mins.

119 Portland Road W11; cowshedonline.com

Dinner at your doorstep

Get your Christmas table essentials without taking off your slippers

• For cheese, visit the website of **La Cave à Fromage (la-cave.co.uk)**, where you can browse a virtual cheese trolley and buy online. Just click on the individual fromage to find out more (we love the Comte Reserve), add to basket and have it delivered straight to your door. Or, try the **Paxton & Whitfield** Super Golds – a selection of cheeses that won the World Cheese Awards' Super Gold medal. £38.00/approx 1kg. **paxtonandwhitfield.co.uk**

• For wine, try **Lea & Sandeman**, which offers great deals on select cases. There's a box of Bordeaux for £202.90 or a case specially curated by the 'Wine Gang' – a group of the UK's best known wine experts, including Anthony Rose and Jane Parkinson – available for £344.10. Free delivery is available for orders over £100, **leaandsandeman.co.uk**

• For vegetables, let **Farm Drop** do the leg work. Visit **farmdrop.co.uk** and select the food you want from a choice of organic producers and farmers, and they'll deliver it to your home. You can find anything from organic pak choi to kabocha squash.

Farm Drop transports organic produce from the field to your front door

Christmas dinner at Min Jiang is served with stunning 10th-floor views across Hyde Park

Dine out

If you feel like abandoning the kitchen altogether, these west London restaurants and hotels will be serving dinner on Christmas Day

• **Min Jiang:** Based on the 10th floor of the Royal Garden Hotel, Min Jiang restaurant presents Christmas dinner with an incredible view of the London skyline. This year, there will be a Christmas lunch from 12pm to 3pm and a dinner at 6pm to 10.30pm, with prices from £90 per person (£50 for under 12s) and a choice of menus available.
christmas@royalgardenhotel.co.uk, 020 7361 1999; minjiang.co.uk

• **The Lancaster**: The Island Grill restaurant at this Hyde Park hotel will be serving a traditional five-course Christmas Day Menu priced at £55 per person on 25 December, served from noon until 6pm.
020 7551 6070; islandrestaurant.co.uk

• **The Truscott Arms:** Maida Vale's beloved gastropub will be offering a menu from chef Aidan McGee, priced at £80 per person.
020 7266 9198, thetruscottarms.com

• **K West Hotel:** Studio Kitchen at K West Hotel will be serving up a three-course festive menu, available on Christmas day, priced at £39.95 per person.
020 8008 6600; k-west.co.uk

The Truscott Arms roast

Deck the halls

Be inspired by this season's key Christmas trends to create a look that suits your style

Story KARA O'REILLY

All items, from a selection, houseoffraser.co.uk

INTO THE WOODS

Aim to pair nature-inspired decorations with traditional Christmas hues

Clockwise from top left: Small hand-carved wooden deer head decoration, **£8.95, caravanstyle.com;** Mini acorn decoration, **£6, houseoffraser.co.uk;** Robin and Holly cracker, **£55 for six, thornbackandpeel.co.uk;** Forest Fox glass globe tree ornament, **£19.95, liberty.co.uk;** Squirrel decoration, **£8.50, oliverbonas.com;** Furry standing owl, **£14.99, joannawood.co.uk;** Robin decoration, **£3.50, from National Portrait Gallery Shop, npg.org.uk/shop;** Tanssi glass bauble by Klaus Haapaniemi, **£25, iittala.com**

DESIGN LINES

Many boutique and luxury brands bring out special or one-off pieces at this time of year

Silhouette wall art, £60, coxandcox.co.uk

Clockwise from top left: King and Queen bauble set, **£58, uk.jonathanadler.com;** Silver Christmas tree charm, **£15, dowerandhall.com;** Tate Modern London Landmark ceramic bauble, **£15.50, snowdenflood.com;** Twiggy snowman ceramic decoration, **£14.95, reikokaneko.co.uk;** Champs Elysee crystal tree tablet, **£89, lalique.com;** White ceramic decoration, **£2, re-foundobjects.com;** Matrioskas ornaments, **£140 per set, lladro.com;** Twinkle decoration by Meyer Lavigne, **£27 for three, uniqueandunity.co.uk;** Annual Christmas edition Angel decoration, **£16.90, villeroy-boch.co.uk**

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dominicpayte.com

All items are a selection from the Decadent Decs collection, talkingtables.co.uk

JOIN THE GLITTERATI

Gold is a perennial Christmas classic, but update it by teaming with touches of black, white and taupe

Clockwise from top left: Glass droplet decorations, **£6 per set of 4, next.co.uk;** Apple and pear mini candles, **£29.95 per pair, miafleur.com;** Boutique striped glass bauble, **£3.50, johnlewis.com;** Mirrored glass wreath, **£33, re-foundobjects.com;** Gold glass swirl bauble, **from £35, fortnumandmason.com;** Large gold glitter table top tree, **£15, from The Contemporary Home, tch.net;** Monochrome and gold crackers, **£36 for six, rockettstgeorge.co.uk;** Snowflake rotary tea light holder, **£9.50, oliverbonas.com**

The Muse Gallery

Established in 2003 by local creatives, The Muse Gallery presents contemporary art by both emerging and established artists. In December at Muse you can find artworks by up-and-coming names from the art world: the Artists in Residence 2016. Nicholas Cheeseman, Samantha Y. Huang, Gemma Milligan as well as previous AiR and established artists will be taking part.
269 Portobello Road W11 1LR, 020 7792 8588

Akesson's

ÅKESSON'S is a small and exclusive planter's line of chocolate and fine exotic foods from its own estates in Madagascar and in Brazil. ÅKESSON'S supplies many top-end chocolate makers and chefs, and has received multiple awards for its rich cocoa creations.
15b Blenheim Crescent, London W11 2EE; akessons-organic.com

A NOTTING HILL NOEL

L Maison

Interior Designers and stockists of fabrics from all major brands including Pierre Frey, Colefax and Fowler, Manual Canovas and Designers Guild . There's also glassware from William Yeoward, skincare from This Works and Bamford, leather goods from Giobagnara and luxurious cashmere throws from Masserano. To bring a new atmosphere to your home, you will find candles and diffusers from Cire Trudon, Daylesford, Lalique, Jonathan Adler and Neom Organics.
L Maison 96 Portland Road W11 4LQ, 020 7243 1568; LMaison.London

Silk And Cashmere

Established over two decades ago with a pioneering spirit, Silk And Cashmere is the only brand in the world that strictly specialises in the finest Inner Mongolian pure cashmere, pure silk and blended products for both men and women. With close to 200 prime locations worldwide, Silk And Cashmere's exceptionally high-quality cashmere collection is by far the largest of its kind. **Silk And Cashmere 77 Portobello Road W11 2QB; 020 7018 2373**

The Cross Boutique

It's hard not to feel a glimmer of Christmas joy at The Cross Boutique. The Cross is brimful with an enticing range of fashion, homeware and gifts. There's the gorgeous velvet and lace eveningwear by Edina Ronay and cashmere jumpers by English Weather and Chinti & Parker to name but a few. With great stocking fillers from Cheek Frills underwear and more, it has just about everything you'll need this festive season.

The Cross 141 Portland Road, W11 4LR, 020 7727 6760; thecrossshop.co.uk

Brora

Brora is renowned for its luxury Scottish cashmere in unique colourways for the whole family, produced at a 200-year old mill at the Scottish Boarders. The cashmere range is complemented by a boutique fashion range made from sumptuous silks, dappled tweeds and soft jerseys. Brora is unique in many ways and makes the vast majority of what it sells in the UK.

Brora Notting Hill, 187 Westbourne Grove, W11 2SB; 020 7229 8623

Looking for rich Brazilian chocolate, a cosy cashmere jumper or a Christmas hangover cure? You can find it all in Notting Hill

Redemption

When silly season is in full swing we can't wait to get our glad rags on and celebrate, but we also know that two months of rich food, booze and late nights can really take their toll. Redemption's beet-o-tini cocktail is hailed as one of the best hangover cures in London – beetroot juice, orange juice, coconut water and a splash of lime shaken over ice. It's nutritious, delicious and surprisingly effective. Bottoms up!

6 Chepstow Road, W2 5BH; 020 7313 9041; redemptionbar.co.uk

Oliver Goldsmith Sunglasses

Oliver Goldsmith is home to one of the oldest sunglasses brands in the world. This family-run British company has been hand making sunglasses for 90 years; acting legends Audrey Hepburn and Michael Caine both donned OG eyewear at the height of their careers. A pair of these chic sunglasses would make a perfect Christmas present for a stylish loved one.

15 All Saints Road, W11, 0207 460 0844; olivergoldsmith.com

STATE *of* THE ART

An open mind and an intuitive approach have led to a thriving design studio and an eclectic home for Sophie Ashby

Words JACKY PARKER

Sophie shares her Notting Hill home with her boyfriend, the fashion designer Charlie Casely-Hayford. The décor benefits from their mutual love of art collecting. African and Aboriginal artworks help bring this space to life, such as the mokuy carvings below from JGMART Gallery

In just two short years interior designer, Sophie Ashby of Studio Ashby has surpassed even her own expectations. With a design studio on Kensal Road, a team of five and prestigious projects, which have included a rambling country house in Somerset for actress, Gabriella Wilde, a slick apartment in Southbank Tower (formerly IPC Media HQ) and a super-cool scheme for diner and takeaway, Patty & Bun, already notched up this young designer is off to a winning start. 'Our projects have all been word of mouth and so the company has grown organically,' says Sophie. 'It's been so exciting to work on projects where I'm able to do what I want to do design-wise.'

A lover of art from an early age with a nomadic family, Sophie has soaked up a huge amount of influences, which she has distilled into her own sophisticated and eclectic look. As a child growing up in South Africa, Sophie moved with her family from the vibrant city of Cape Town to the scenic valleys of Stellenbosch, where her mother was tasked with turning around a failing winery. 'My mum is a doer,' explains Sophie. 'She's had about ten careers, including fashion-buying and selling jewellery. She has always had a studio where she's made art and at 50 she went back to university to study sculpture.'

A move to London ensued – Sophie's parents thought it would offer the family a better life, but her mother found it hard to settle in the capital and so they upped sticks to Totnes in Devon, a town known for its alternative culture. 'We'd lived on the side of a mountain and we all found it hard to adjust to city life,' says Sophie. 'Totnes is a bohemian, hippy town with so many interesting characters, I really enjoyed living there.' Sophie's interest in art continued to grow and having won an art scholarship to the sixth form of Millfield, the independent school she had been attending, she went on to gain a BA in History of Art at Leeds University. 'I practically lived in the art department at school,' she says. 'My other subjects probably suffered because of it, but I was obsessed with art.' Now also a Young ›

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Patron of the Royal Academy of Arts, it was an obsession that served her well.

One unforeseen but happy consequence of moving so often was the exposure Sophie had to different styles of property. Having lived in a traditional Cape Dutch farmhouse, a London Edwardian house and a contemporary oak frame and glass home that her parents had renovated by the time she was a teenager, a chat with a family friend then crystallised the idea of a career in interior design. 'My parents did up houses and sold them on, so I was interested in property as well as art,' she says. 'Interior design seemed a good way

I love designers of the Modernist era, such as Gio Ponti and Pierre Jeanneret

to combine the two.' A friend advised her to learn AutoCAD and French and take up interior design at Parsons, the famous school of design in New York, so after mastering the first two, at 21 Sophie found herself studying in the Big Apple.

Keen to put her newfound skills to good use, Sophie returned to the UK, settled in Portobello and started to hone her craft working for interior designer, Victoria Fairfax. 'Victoria is very patient and taught me so much; I got my love of antiques from her,' she says.

Sophie's next move was to Spring and Mercer, a start up agency, where she was able to run her own interior design projects. With a number of successful creations to her name, it was then a natural move for Sophie to set up her own practice, Studio Ashby in 2013.

When it comes to her own home, Sophie sticks to a clean, simple colour palette

Having plunged into the world of interior design, Sophie continues to immerse herself in learning about past renowned architects and designers, 'I'm constantly reading about designers from all over the world but I particularly love those of the Modernist era, such as Gio Ponti and Pierre Jeanneret,' she says.

Most of Sophie's weekends are spent perusing galleries and exhibitions with her boyfriend, fashion menswear designer, Charlie Casely-Hayford, whom she met through a mutual friend. 'We're lucky we like the same things,' she says. 'We both collect art and give each other a piece of art for every special occasion.'

Sophie's creative energies have mostly been spent on her projects so the young designer has done the bare minimum décor-wise to her home, although, her stylish touch and various influences are very much apparent. 'I have inklings and feelings about things and I love there to be a mix of items from different places,' she says. 'I like masculine clean, sharp lines with a feminine colour palette. I'm usually drawn to the same natural, earthy tones, as I don't design with saturated colour. I also like to include an African influence, which is to do with my South African roots and I love Aboriginal art, the shapes and stories behind the paintings are beautiful.'

Indeed the Portobello flat she shares with Charlie is peppered with their ever-growing art collection.

'Charlie is a man of few possessions but those he does have – art, sculpture and books – have added character to the flat,' says Sophie. 'Plants are important too. I like a home to be quietly colourful, comfortable and welcoming.'

0203 176 2571; studioashby.com

Studio Ashby's interior design for an open-plan reception and dining room at the Plimsoll building, King's Cross

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WINE MERCHANTS

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TOM PARKER BOWLES

Bored of turkey? It's why I take a global outlook to Christmas

Christmas time, mistletoe and wine, children singing... Alright, enough. Please. Stop. One more line of Cliff's festive fun vacuum, and I'll have the damned tune in my head all day. Which is a very bad thing indeed. Because the suspiciously smooth-cheeked Septuagenarian is – like grog-filled chocolates, turkey and plum pudding – one of the more obvious downsides of British Christmas.

In the UK, we're pretty much alone in our misguided devotion to turkey. In the rest of the world, things are done with a little bit more, well, good taste. Across much of Europe, it's Christmas Eve when the big party takes place. The Poles celebrate Wigilia, or 'eve'. Once the first star appears in the evening sky, so the feasting begins, involving plenty of borscht, carp in aspic, pickled fish, poppy seed cakes and various ways with dried fruit, all washed down with cold vodka. Lots of it. In London, Patio in Shepherd's Bush gives you the genuine Polish experience. Beware, though, that vodka.

Germany settles down to a Christmas Eve banquet involving potato salad, carp and herring, plus the occasional fondue or raclette. Hardly light, especially when Christmas Day involves roast goose, duck or pork. With plenty of dumplings. And lebkuchen cookies, plus great hunks of the ubiquitous stollen cake. Try Katzenjammers near Borough Market for the full-on German experience.

Italy might argue as to which region gives the finest Christmas eating, but Christmas Eve may involve eel with peas and tomatoes, pasta with breadcrumbs, agnolotti with spinach and ricotta, cured anchovies or bagna cauda, depending on where you live. The next day is a very serious eating session indeed. Antipasto, with various hams and salamis, then anolini in brodo, or cannolini. Then meat, duck or veal or bollito misto, again depending on your region. Try Locanda Locatelli, Bocca di Lupo in Soho, Riva in Barnes or L'Anima in the City.

Terroirs in Trafalgar Square will lay on a French festive feast

France also goes big. Quelle surprise! Réveillon is the traditional chow down, eaten late on Christmas Eve or early on Christmas morning, after midnight mass. Oysters, roasted truffled capons, goose, lobster, foie gras, plus buche de noel and endless puddings. The fast is over. Let's eat. Try Galvin Bistro Deluxe on Baker Street, Knightsbridge's Bar Boulud, Terroirs in Trafalgar Square or, for a serious blow out, that gilded Grande Dame, Le Gavroche.

If all else fails, though, follow the Japanese. Although Christians make up less than 1% of the country, they do have one Christmas Eve eating tradition. KFC. Seriously. Over there, the 'Christmas Party Barrel' is outrageously popular. Oh dear. Come back turkey, all is forgiven.

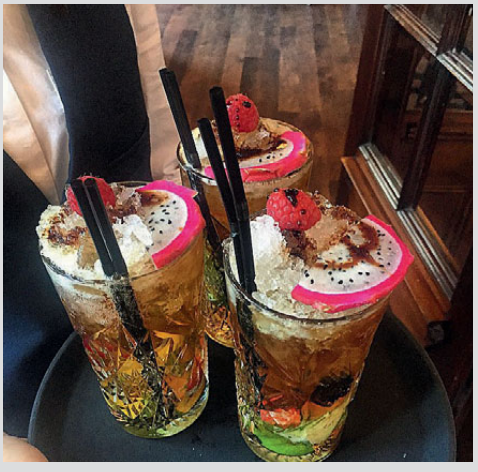
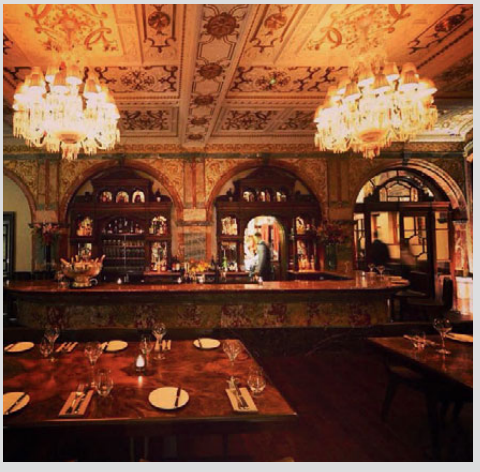
EDITOR'S CHOICE – GLOBAL FEASTING

Kipferl
Originally opened in Smithfield in 2004, Kipferl's Golborne Road site brings Viennese food culture to Notting Hill. From spicy Hungarian gulyas soup to the famous Wiener Schnitzel, this is a coffeehouse experience like no other.
95 Golborne Road W10 5NL, 020 8969 5852; kipferl.co.uk

Maramia Cafe
Another Golborne Road café worth travelling for is Maramia, which serves fresh, hard-to-find Palestinian dishes like kibbeh, a deep-fried lamb and maftoul, a handmade couscous.
48 Golborne Road W10 5PR; 020 3181 0030; maramia.com

Ognisko
Head Chef at Ognisko Jan Woroniecki is determined to show Londoners the untapped gourmet potential of Polish food. This Christmas he'll be serving a Polish-leaning menu, starting with an Ognisko vodka.
55 Exhibition Road SW7 2PN 020 7589 0101; ogniskorestaurant.co.uk

CROCKER'S FOLLY

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SALT & HONEY

Words LORRAINE CRIGHTON-SMITH

Connaught Village newcomer Salt & Honey opened its doors, opposite The Victoria pub, in July. It's the second restaurant opening from the team behind poplar Fulham bistro Manuka Kitchen. Here it's Chef Tyler Martin at the helm, bringing a similar mix of British/European cuisine that he has been serving in SW6 for the past three years to W2. Inside, it's a fairly intimate space with an understated, elegant décor.

I was dining with a fussy eater for whom eating out in new restaurants is often a stressful experience. Glancing at the menu whilst sipping a welcome glass of fizz, I saw her physically relax. She had zoned in on the words 'wagyu beef bolognaise' and realised she wouldn't go home hungry after all.

To start, I weighed up the options between the fennel-cured beef with burratta, balsamic and avocado oil and the seared scallops with truffled corn velouté and lardo di colonnata (a type of Tuscan salami), but switched allegiances at the last minute and ordered ham hock rillettes with salted pistachios and pea shoots. A combination of soft and crunchy, flavoursome and salty, it was a hearty starter.

There were seven mains to choose from when we visited in the autumn, including the aforementioned wagyu beef bolognaise with pappardelle and rocket pesto, which was outstanding – perfectly cooked pasta, a warming, rich sauce complemented by the punchy pesto, transforming a fussy eater into an enthusiastic foodie. I would also recommend the market fish – I tried a sea bass – with clams, oyster mushrooms and truffle mash. The truffle mash was silky and luxurious, the oyster mushrooms velvety, in contrast to the satisfyingly crunch skin of the sustainably-sourced sea bass.

The peanut butter chocolate pretzel tart was a naughty-but-nice way to round off our meal. The global wine list is succinct but very reasonable; in fact it's good value all around at Salt & Honey. With space for around 50 covers and a mezzanine perfect for private dinner parties, it's worth reserving a table.

Salt & Honey sets itself apart as Paddington's own European bistro

COST
Around £80 for two including wine

GOOD FOR...
Modern British cuisine with European influences

WHAT TO EAT...
Wagyu beef parpadelle

WHAT TO KNOW...
The owners of Salt & Honey and Manuka Kitchen also have a fabulous gin bar, 510 Below, under their Fulham restaurant

RESIDENT RATING
★★★★½

28 Sussex Place W2 2TH; 020 706 7900; saltandhoneybistro.com

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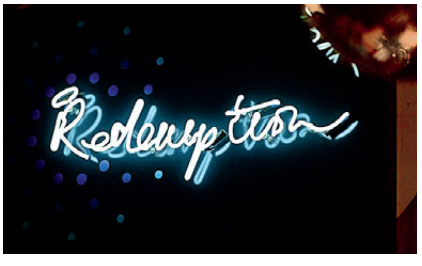
Following successful pop-ups in Hackney and Holborn, Redemption has found its home in Notting Hill

Say yes to temptation

With its impressive vegan menu, there's no room for guilt at Redemption Bar

If someone mentions an alcohol-free vegan restaurant to you, it probably wouldn't be a vision of Redemption that comes to mind. The vintage 1960s pineapple chandelier, the neon artwork, the pinterest-worthy glassware, the marble tables, sumptuous fabrics and modern music playlist all create an atmosphere of cool, modern indulgence.

Redemption's CEO Catherine Salway explains, 'our motto is "spoil yourself without spoiling yourself" and that's reflected in everything we do. Our aim is to create a space in which you can't really do any harm to yourself, to others, society, animals or the planet. And yet it



feels like a proper night out. We are 100% vegan, 50% raw, organic where possible, and we hate waste. But we also like to have a good time.'

Following three successful pop-ups in Hackney, Holborn and Golborne Road, Catherine chose the centre of Notting Hill as the location for the first flagship restaurant. 'Notting Hill is world-famous but it's also the greatest concentration of people who are becoming more conscious of what they put in their bodies and how it affects the planet,' says Catherine.

Redemption Creative Director and Executive Chef, Andrea Waters, is an experienced restauranteur and raw food chef, and on a mission to challenge the convention that vegan food is lacking in taste, texture and finesse. Highlights from her menu are: nourishing maki rolls with enoki mushrooms, avocado, black and red quinoa, sesame seeds and mirco amaranth shoots; and grilled aubergine with tahini, pomegranate seeds, toasted pinenuts and micro basil, which delights even the most hardcore non-vegans.

Innovative raw-food techniques and sugar replacements are giving chefs like Andrea the opportunity to create guilt-free desserts – for example vanilla and chocolate cheesecake made from raw cacao, cashews, almonds, dates, walnuts and coconut nectar. Just a quick check of Redemption's Instagram feed will tell you that these are creating quite a stir.

Redemption is open every day 10-11pm (except Sundays when it closes at 5pm). The kitchen is open for brunch 10am to 3pm weekdays and until 5pm weekends. Dinner is served 6-10pm. There's a selection of fruit smoothies available all-day long, as well as good-for-you cakes, sweets, Union coffee and a range of teas to enjoy.

6 Chepstow Road W2 5BH; redemptionbar.co.uk

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

Chef Tom Kerridge takes a break from the Marlow countryside to join Harrods as its Chef of the Season

BY SUDI PIGOTT

Flavour champion and country boy with a now instantly recognisable West Country accent, Tom Kerridge seems pleased as punch to be cooking at Harrods as their latest 'Chef of the Season'. 'When I was a child, I walked around the food hall at Harrods in amazement with my jaw open thinking it was the greatest place on earth! For me, it is so exciting to be cooking at such an iconic place, unbelievable,' he says.

The chef is becoming used to life turning out well and relishes being a glass-half-full kind of person, always cheerful and optimistic. His gourmet pub The Hand and Flowers in Marlow, now nearly 11 years old, initially opened to make enough money so that his wife, Beth, could become a full-time sculptor. Today, it holds two Michelin stars, the first pub ever to reach such an achievement, and is a huge success. So much so that he has recently opened The Coach close-by too.

Beth, who went to The Royal College of Art and apprenticed with Anthony Caro, is now widely recognised in the artworld for her sculpture. Kerridge was surprised to find that his pubs attracted such attention, yet modestly claims, 'I don't think it is just our pub, it's a reflection on the British food scene and the huge interest in producers now.' He has long been an advocate for the British pub, he gushed in an interview earlier this year, 'I find pubs very personal and homely. No matter what time of year it is, what day of the week, you just feel comfortable. Pubs are close to my heart, they are very British and something we should be proud of.'

It's this relatable 'everyman' attitude that helped Kerridge become a considerable TV personality, fronting BBC2's iconic *Food & Drink* programme, which involves challenging the likes of The Hairy Bikers and Raymond Blanc. It all started modestly enough with his appearance on *The Great British Menu* in 2010 and then he went on to secure his own TV show *Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food*, 'that was a huge turning point for me,' he recalls. Though as a teenager, he had been interested in a career in acting, and even had a small role in *Miss Marple*. He is ›

Honey roast ham, goose pie and traditional turkey: just a few of Tom Kerridge's Christmas dishes

Christmas is a time for celebrating and we've hand-picked 12 festive wines that are just perfect for sharing with friends and family this festive season, all with the character and sense of place that make our wines special.

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And if you can't decide which to pick? Why not get a mixed case of all 12.

Merry Christmas!

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for the facts

Potted crab: Chef Kerridge's take on a festive starter

adamant that adjusting to fame has not changed him a bit, though is quite aware that he needs to give 100 per cent when he knows people have come to see him. 'My wife and mates would pull me up if I got carried away at all; I am just comfortable in my own skin. I pay little attention to people knowing who I am. Though, sometimes I do get reminded that I have a voice that people listen to, and that does scare me a bit,' he explains.

Originally from the West Country, Kerridge first got interested in cooking when he needed to prepare meals after school for himself and his brother – his mum was busy holding down multiple jobs to support the family single-handedly. It was when he took his first job as a kitchen porter, aged 18, that he realised he was made for a chef's life. 'The idea and feeling of being in a kitchen was fantastic.' Twenty-five years on, it's obvious he still feels the same.

Sometimes I'm reminded I have a voice people listen to and that does scare me a bit

Kerridge says his cooking is 'all about flavour combinations. Flavour profile is the most important and getting the most out of even simple things, plus understanding British produce and treating it robustly and with love and respect.' His recipes are always strong and bold, sophisticated yet familiar. He's been impressed by the in-house chefs at Harrods and has thrived on working closely with them in his pubs so that the customer still gets the same experience, whether dining in his West Country restaurant, The Tom's Table pop-up or taking away more informal dishes.

His traiteur menu at Harrods from November right up until Christmas will include curried parsnip soup with honey oil, game terrine with cranberry relish, honey roast ham with salt baked pineapple, stuffed turkey with brown sauce and crumble topping, goose and ale pie and spiced plum cake with plum and cinnamon sauce.

Tom's new book, simply titled *Tom's Table* is a reflection of how he likes to cook at home, which is also the starting point for the dishes at The Hand and Flowers. 'The recipes are all very personal, honest and delicious, from my heart and soul. I especially like cooking at this time of year as I love root vegetables and meats that need slow-cooking,' he says.

Despite his name being synonymous with pubs, Kerridge is now teetotal. That and a daily swimming regime helped him transform his health over the last couple of years and gave him greater focus. He tells me, 'I don't really do things small. I like taking on challenges. If I have the mindset to do it, I'll do it and do it properly. It's like being a chef. You need determination and grit to survive. If you have that crack-on spirit, you'll thrive.'

Surprisingly, Kerridge reveals that his favourite food at the end of a long day requires no cooking, 'I adore cheese!' When he is not in the kitchen, he fills his time watching Marlow FC play football and walking his dogs with Beth.

As we go to press, Tom is sharpening his knives for the challenge of The Tom's Table pop-up at Harrods in The Food Hall, where he'll be serving a Christmas feast to the lucky few who managed to secure tickets. Among these are the crisp pig's head with sweet date sauce, pancetta and chickweed, plus venison with chilli puffed rice, 100 per cent chocolate and triple cooked chips.

The rest of us will have to make a Hand & Flowers pilgrimage through Marlow to dine at Tom's Table. My guess is, it'd be worth the trek.

Tom Kerridge's contemporary Christmas dishes will be available at the Harrods Food Hall until 5 January; harrods.com

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A GOOD VINTAGE

Richard Boiling, manager at Jeroboams in Holland Park, picks his stand-out wines and Champagnes for Christmas

Top 3 Champagnes

1 N.V. Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut, £24.95. 'The Grand Brut is delicate, elegant and balanced. The striking freshness and vivacity of the floral and fruity fragrances (yellow fruits and fresh fruits) take root, before giving way to subtle notes of vanilla and butter, lending the wine a fruity and consistent character. The notes of cherry plum, lemon and bergamot orange emerge first, then make way for the flowers of fruit trees, such as lime and honeysuckle.'

2 N.V. Laytons Brut Reserve, £17.95. 'First introduced in 1985, this extremely versatile wine has always been blended for Laytons by one of Champagne's leading 'Grande Marque' houses. If you must drink inexpensive Champagne then make it a good one. For years this has been the best of the fine-wine merchant's own-label fizz.'

3 N.V. Ruinart Blanc de Blancs, £45. 'This wine has a beautiful pale golden yellow colour with gentle green reflections, a vibrant, luminous colour. It gives a supple, harmonious attack on the palate that's very rounded and supported by excellent freshness.'

Top 3 wines

1 2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Blanc, Baudines, Frédéric Magnien, £33.95. 'Baudines strikes the perfect balance between creamy and citrus. The vineyard sits up high on the slope, near the tree line, and this cooler perch allows Magnien's older vines to produce lovely, nervously-etched and sumptuously balanced fruit.'

2 2007 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, £44.95. 'Grand-Puy-Lacoste's 2007 offers balance, purity and finesse. It has an attractive blackberry and raspberry nose followed by a stylish palate with velvety yet linear black cherry fruit and cedar hints. The epitome of a top-class Pauillac, this is another very polished Grand-Puy-Lacoste from the charming François-Xavier Borie.'

3 2003 Château Suduiraut, Premier Cru Sauternes half bottle, £17.95. 'This one is bright, full yellow. It's very juicy and fine for Suduiraut, and not at all outsized or overly sweet. It comes across as very young, and finishes with a noteworthy spine.'

For more information visit 96 Holland Park Ave W11 3RB
020 7727 9359, @jeroboamshollan; jeroboams.co.uk

TREASURE ISLAND

At Peter Island in the British Virgin Islands, the concept of being shipwrecked has never been so appealing

Words LORRAINE CRIGHTON-SMITH

For the ultimate luxurious, private escape head to Peter Island, the largest private island of the 60-odd islands, cays and exposed reefs that make up the British Virgin Islands (BVI). It's not quite undiscovered Caribbean (footballer Rio Ferdinand hired out the entire island for his wedding in 2009 and Robert De Niro has stayed here too) but if you find yourself as a castaway, Peter Island is the place to wash ashore.

Rio and Robert aren't the only famous faces associated with this paradise island. Early visitors are said to have included Christopher Columbus, Sir Francis Drake and even Blackbeard, who is rumoured to have buried treasure here. It wasn't until the late 1960s, when a Norwegian millionaire bought the idyllic island, built a marina and some A-framed chalets, that it became a resort. Over the years, additional building and extensive renovations have transformed it into the luxury resort it is today. It now has 52 guest rooms and junior suites as well as three super-luxe designer villas.

Travelling to Peter Island involves flying from London to Antigua, where you'll transfer from BA to local Caribbean airline LIAT, which feels like a sky bus – stopping down at St Kitts and Nevis and St. Maarten before you reach Tortola, the capital of the BVI. From Tortola, Peter Island is around four miles away out at sea. We were whisked from one island to the other via private yacht, an exhilarating experience arriving in the dark of night.

After a warm Caribbean welcome, we were shown around our villa. We stayed in Crow's Nest, a chic and stylish gated villa with four bedroom suites, a private swimming pool and panoramic views of the Sir Francis Drake channel. With a well-stocked bar and, with access to our own personal butler, chef and housekeeper

Crows Nest Villa has chic Caribbean-inspired decor

Enjoy ocean views from the jacuzzi at Peter Island's impressive spa

Left: Peter Island has five idyllic beaches. Right: gourmet delights

TRAVEL NOTES

ITC Luxury Travel (01244 355 527; itcluxurytravel.co.uk) has prices from £1,765 per person based on 2 adults sharing an Ocean View Room for 7 nights on a room only basis including return economy flights with British Airways from London Gatwick and internal flights with LIAT and transfers. Saving up to £530 per person*

we wanted for nothing during our time here – aside from more hours in the day to make the most of our luxurious surroundings. One could happily hole up in one of the island's three private villas; the biggest is Falcon's Nest, which can accommodate 12, has its own infinity-edge pool, dipping pool, large outdoor whirlpool and a three-story waterfall with grotto, while Hawks Nest sleeps six to 10 guests and has jaw-dropping views of Deadman's Bay and the harbour.

Do leave your villa though, because it would be rude to visit this 1,800 acre-island and not explore it. Keen on keeping fit? A private island in the Caribbean may not seem an obvious gym-bunny retreat, but there's a five-mile uphill loop with walking, running and biking trails. There are water stations on the loop to keep you hydrated and what better way to cool down at the end than with a swim in the Caribbean sea? Choose between the island's five secluded beaches: Deadman's Bay, Little Deadman's Bay, Honeymoon Beach (for two), Big Reef Bay and White Bay – each with glorious golden sand and stunning turquoise sea.

The good news for those needing to refuel, or simply those with an appreciation for good food, is that Executive Chef Lisa Sellers (from Birmingham) cooks up a storm in the Peter Island kitchens. Tradewinds is the resort's signature restaurant, serving a mix of Asian-Caribbean cuisine. The Gala Buffet on Saturday evenings is an extravagant affair; choose between a vast array of delectable dishes or order from the fresh pasta station. Desserts are impressive too. Tradewinds is also open for breakfast, and you must try Jean Kelly's famous French toast (and, if you like it, buy the t-shirt too). A truly memorable meal for me was the BBQ at Deadman's Beach Bar and Grill: fresh fish, lobster and perfectly chargrilled meats. For a special occasion (or if you're feeling antisocial) you can request private dining. We had an in-villa dinner party one night and the standard of cooking and service was second to none.

If the lure of a private island isn't enough to entice you, how about an impressive 10,000 sq ft Ayurvedic spa? Treat yourself to an amazing 75-minute Peter Island Signature massage and then relax by the pool, in the tranquillity garden, or the ocean-side jacuzzi.

To explore a bit more of the BVI, head out for a sail. We set off on a half-day sail on Simaril, a classic 51 ft Hans Christian Sloop with Jason and Lindsay Geyser, Captain and First Mate. Their love of the water is infectious – and their hospitality is legendary. It's a great opportunity to swim and snorkel in some mesmerising secluded coves, and find out more about the area. Other excursions on offer include deep-sea fishing, golf and shopping in St. Thomas, offshore scuba diving and day trips to The Baths on Virgin Gorda. Or you could just lounge by the beach, with no one else there to judge you.

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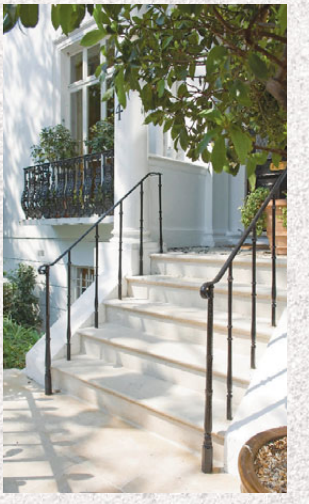

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Gravetye Manor offers guests a relaxing stay

ROOM TO BREATHE

Only 30 miles from London, Gravetye Manor feels a world apart from the frantic pace of city living

Words VICKY MAYER

It may have been built back in 1958 but Gravetye Manor is showing no signs of slowing down. This magnificent country house hotel in West Sussex is the perfect destination for time poor, cash rich Londoners, who are looking for some serious r'n r.

Sleep in style

The hotel lies resplendent in its own 1,000 acre estate, which gives you that great feeling of a country escape, despite it being only 30 miles from the city.

While other hotels rush to join whatever interiors trend is happening that year, the assured Gravetye Manor is happy to stick with its grown-up wood panelling and luxurious soft furnishings.

The bedrooms are gorgeously decorated in muted hues while the hotel's splendidly appointed reception rooms and dining room offer you the chance to live like a Lord (even if it's only for the weekend!).

Head Chef George Blogg recently won his first Michelin star for his seasonal menu including dishes like pine smoked haunch of venison and raspberry crumble soufflé, so dinner is a must.

Nearby attractions include Hever Castle and Sheffield Park, but when the Manor's gorgeous formal gardens surround you, why leave? Here you can explore the pleasures of the croquet lawn and walled garden, all beautifully tended to by the hotel's seven full-time gardeners.

Whether you are planning a romantic weekend away or a calm midweek break, Gravetye Manor is the perfect place to chill, read a big book and rediscover the pleasure of lounging around in luxury.

TRAVEL NOTES

Gravetye Manor is a member of the Relais & Chateaux group. Overnight stays at Gravetye Manor start at £260 for a double room for two with breakfast. For further information, visit relaischateaux.com/gravetyemanor or call 0800 344 5087

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Christmas CHEER

A recent study states our children are some of the unhappiest in the world. So how do we put a smile on back on their faces?

Words SOPHIE STEAD

The Dalai Lama has launched a mindfulness course, with the extra-curricular seen as a vital way to let pupils blow off some steam

If you ask parents what they want their children to be when they grow up, they often say 'happy'. If you ask children what they want to be they shout out dream jobs, from a pilot and doctor, to engineer and astronaut. Learning how to be happy often isn't seen as a priority when you are young. However, in a recent study by the Children's Society, English school children are among some of the unhappiest in the world. An important question to consider is how can we protect our children from this trend?

Mindfulness

Mindfulness may have once sat firmly in the realm of the self-help bookshelves, but the results for lowering stress levels, depression and increasing happiness has meant that it has now become part of mainstream society and now part of some schools' curriculum. Even the Dalai Lama has got involved. In September, he launched a mindfulness course, exploring a series of questions to help understand what would make a happier society with proven results on individual wellbeing.

Mindfulness is the technique of focusing the mind on the 'now' and enjoying the present rather than thinking ahead to worries around the corner. In an age where children are bombarded with information almost every waking hour, mindfulness provides that much needed quiet moment to recoup and bring a sense of calm. Dr Anthony Seldon, the outgoing Master of Wellington College, made headlines when he introduced mindfulness lessons into his school. Offering support strategies to children when they are still young allows them to build resilience and develop clever ways of dealing with problems that come their way at any stage in their lives.

Prior Preparation

Exams are a stressful part of school life for any child and increasing exam pressure has seen the rates of depression in schools rise rapidly over the last decade. However, it doesn't need to be that way. Putting together a plan with your child far ahead of their exams allows them to feel in control of their time, knowing that they will reach their goals if they keep to plan. It's easy for your own anxieties about exams to feed back down to your children, but a clear understanding of what the exam is about, where your child needs to focus and what the end goal is makes the whole experience much calmer.

A Problem Shared

The Children's Society are calling for counselling to be provided as mandatory in schools across England. Vocalising their feelings on a particular issue is the first step to encouraging children to be open about the problems or anxieties that they are facing at school and understand how to solve those problems. This can be easily integrated into home life, whether it's a chat in the car on the way home from school or sitting down as a family a couple of nights a week to talk through everyone's day.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There is nothing like getting outside of the classroom and doing other activities to really blow away those worries. Having a good range of extra-curricular interests that your child enjoys and aren't exam-focused will allow them to build their confidence and understand that school, although crucially important, is only one aspect of a well-rounded part of growing up. Life is all about balance.

Sophie Stead is a part of the Enjoy Education team, London's leading private tuition company. Find out more by calling 020 7352 8800 or visiting enjoyeducation.co.uk

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WINNING FORMULA

With secondary schools and problems with places back in the news, one local institution shows the way forward

Words MARK KEBBLE

If I was a little more cynical, I would have raised an eyebrow at the trophy that greets me as I walk into Mark Hudson's headmaster's office at Kew House School – but you get the sense this is part of the norm at this incredibly successful independent senior school. 'I didn't think we would be a football school,' he says, explaining it's for winning a recent under 12 5-a-side tournament, 'but that success flows through the school. Success breeds success. I am very keen to promote our sports people.'

Since opening its doors in September 2013 – the third school managed by the Gardener Schools Group (formerly London Preparatory Schools) – Kew House School has experienced unprecedented success. 'Remarkable,' is how Mark sums up those three years. 'The enthusiasm of our parents and children has really been remarkable. The students love coming to school, they come in with a smile on their faces. It's a happy, hard working school. The spirit and atmosphere has exceeded my wildest dreams. Parents like the curriculum structure, they love the facilities and most importantly they appreciate the quality of teaching.'

The spirit and atmosphere in the school has exceeded my wildest dreams

Demand for entrance at 11+ continues to grow – 'We have nearly 300 students in the school, we probably expected to be at around 180 after year three,' Mark smiles – so it's little surprise that September 2016 will see the launch of their Sixth Form. 'That was always intended,' Mark points out, 'Kew House was set up as an 11-18-year-old school. We have a brand new Sixth Form block on the drawing board. Our original Year 9s have now reached Year 11, so they will form the first intake to the Sixth Form in 2016, along with a few external students who will join at that point, subject to them meeting the entrance criteria. We will be looking for a level of maturity in those students. Do they share the enthusiasm for learning we have got here?'

Students heading into the new Sixth Form block will enjoy the same high quality facilities

As Mark gives me a guided tour, it's amazing to see how much has changed at Kew House School since I first visited two years ago. There are new classrooms, state-of-the-art equipment, a theatre space that seats 300 – and by using some clever design tricks, the new Sixth Form block will actually see the school have more outside space rather than less.

'There will be 12 teaching spaces and, most importantly, we have designed an independent learning centre,' Mark says on what to expect. 'It's my belief that students in the Sixth Form will need to adapt to being independent learners. We will be offering three A levels, although some may be able to do four. All lessons will be three hours long [Kew House School has become renowned for its longer lessons from Year 7 through to Year 11], two sessions a day, reflecting what they will experience at university.'

Everything about Kew House School exudes positivity and, with the demand, would they open another school? After a brief pause and smile, Mark does suggest the Gardener Schools Group are considering another site, but he's quick to add: 'I am not going anywhere.' Expect many more trophies to be on show in the years to come.

Kew House School is now accepting applications for Sixth Form entrance in 2016 and will be holding an Open Evening on 19 January, 2016, at 7pm. For more details, please call 020 8742 2038 or visit kewhouseschool.com

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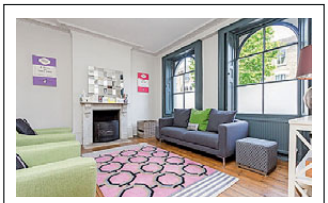

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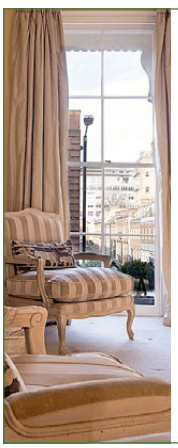

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This two-bedroom property has been interior designed throughout by Lily London Interiors with no expense spared, as can be seen in this spectacular open plan kitchen/reception room, which boasts fabulous proportions and a magnificent vaulted ceiling. The fully-furnished home has two bedrooms and one reception room.

£2,500 pw. Shenfield Terrace, Kensington W8. Strutt & Parker Lettings: 020 7938 3866; struttandparker.com

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DECEMBER 2015

70 Property news – discover the latest moves in luxurious living and working spaces in the capital

72 5 of the best… living areas for Christmas entertaining

88 My Month – Ben Davies of Savills Notting Hill on the ups and downs of the autumn market

97 A word from... Chloe Leefe from Mountgrange Heritage on why you need to style your house if you want to sell it quickly

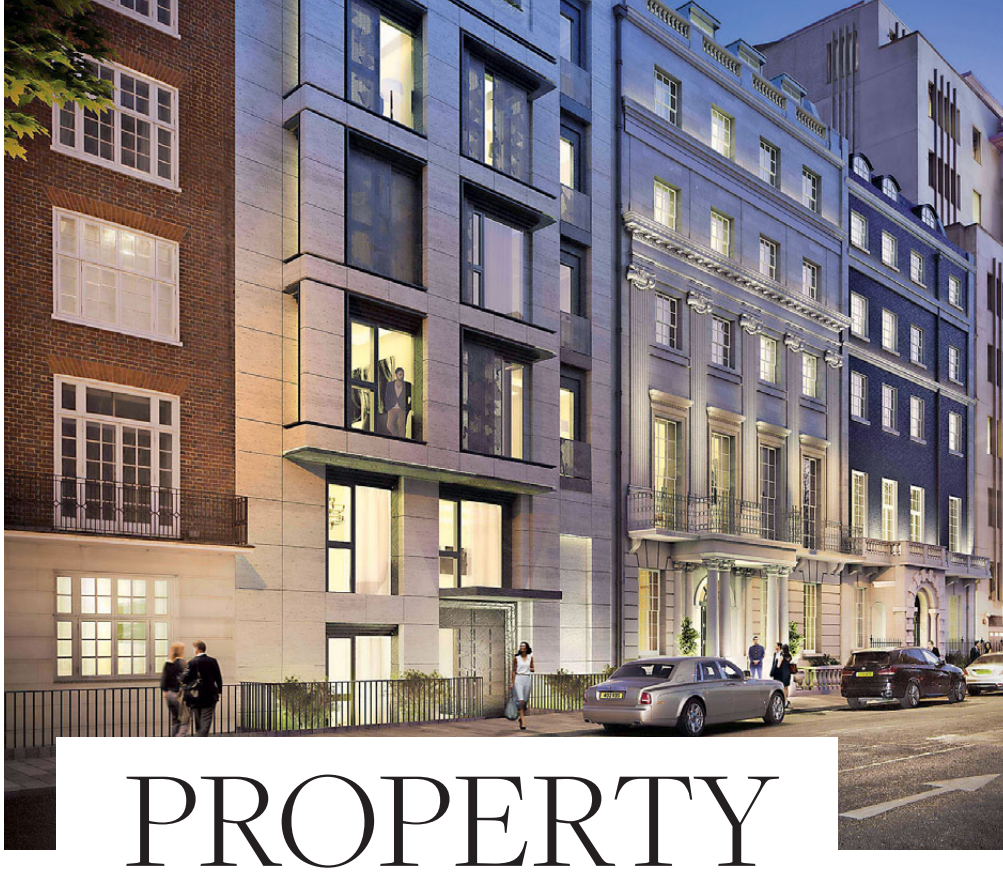
100 My dream home – this elegant two-bedroom apartment in Kensington Gardens W2 could be yours

As we approach Christmas, our homes become more important than ever – the place where we welcome friends and family, where we entertain and relax. It has been an interesting year for the London property market, not least the influence of the general election, but ultimately bricks and mortar in our capital remain a sound investment as well as the place where we lay our hat.

Karen

Karen Tait, Property Editor

Editor's pick: This spectacular four-bedroom penthouse spans the top of the two buildings forming Lansdowne Court, W11, with a unique design making the most of the views: £8.5m (Savills, 020 7727 5750)



PROPERTY *NEWS*

Your update on London's homes & interiors

Parliament penthouses

Comprising two spacious residences, The Penthouse Collection at Parliament House, on the Albert Embankment, offers breathtaking 360-degree views across the capital. Inside there's bespoke parquet flooring, floor-to-ceiling glazing, designer kitchens, opulent bathrooms, audio-visual Crestron control systems and coffered ceilings to all rooms.

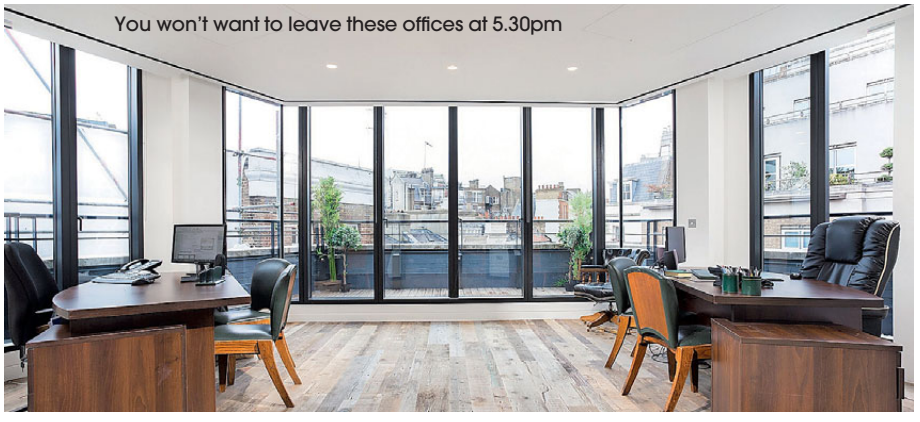
The Triplex Penthouse's top three floors crown the development, while it also has a large private terrace with barbeque and hot tub. Access to each floor is via a helical wooden staircase, leading to an automated glass rooflight with access to a second roof terrace at the pinnacle of Parliament House, offering sweeping views up the Thames towards the Houses of Parliament. From leading London developer Telford Homes, the penthouses are priced at £6m and £3m.

The penthouses at Parliament House offer breathtaking views

Individuals who live at Mayfair Park Residences will enjoy hotel-style services

A DORCHESTER FIRST

In a first for the international hotel group, the Dorchester Collection has signed an agreement with super-prime residential scheme Mayfair Park Residences on Stanhope Gate, to provide its exclusive services to private residents. Owners of the 18 apartments the Clivedale London development, will be offered in-home dining, 24-hour concierge and housekeeping services, with room service being delivered from the 45 Park Lane hotel. The Dorchester Collection will also manage a health club within the development. With interiors courtesy of Jouin Manku – the practice behind Maison van Cleef & Arpels in New York and Alain Ducasse at Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris – Mayfair Park Residences spans three adjacent buildings with prices for the majority of the apartments expected to be approximately £5,000/sq ft (completion 2018).



You won't want to leave these offices at 5.30pm

London's most luxurious offices

An Art Deco marble and gold staircase, gold-plated Armani-hotel washrooms, timber flooring imported from a 16th-century monastery in Tuscany, and in-office dining provided by celeb restaurant La Petite Maison – if this doesn't sound like your offices, maybe you should encourage your boss to take a look at 54 Brooks Mews in Mayfair.

The result of the most expensive commercial fit-out (a record £500/sq ft) to be undertaken in London, the development has taken over 16 months with some £4m being spent on the project – £3m alone was spent on furnishing just three floors of luxurious office interiors, £1m per floor.

Enstar Capital commissioned award-winning architects Stiff & Trevillion to design a lavish scheme for the building, which includes a restored Art Deco entrance with a new '54' entrance sign replicating Steve Rubell's famous 'Studio 54' nightclub logo of the 1970s.

28.4%

The increase in average rents for private properties in Westminster last year, the highest rent rise anywhere in the UK

Source: Direct Line for Business

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5 of the best... FOR CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING

These inviting living areas make the perfect space for a Christmas party

TRADITIONAL CHARM

Ennismore Gardens, SW7, £12,250,000

This Grade II listed grand home, arranged over five storeys and a basement, offers five bedrooms, four bathrooms, three reception rooms and a lift, making it ideal for accommodating family and friends over Christmas. The roof terrace is perfect for the fireworks on New Years Eve.

Beauchamp Estates, 020 7499 7722

RETRO GLAMOUR

Ladbroke Square, W11, £12,950,000

This impressive six-bedroom property is ideal for Christmas entertaining: serve Champagne and canapés in the formal reception room, prepare lunch in the ample open-plan kitchen and gather the family in the stunning dining room with ceilings high enough for a tall Christmas tree.

Kay and Co, 020 7262 2030

SPLASH OF COLOUR

Kensington Park Road, W11, £5,417 pcm

This two-bedroom apartment in the heart of Notting Hill has a modern open-plan kitchen and quirkily designed reception. The bright interiors and cosy atmosphere makes it an ideal place for entertaining families and friends over the festive period.

KFH, 020 3542 2120

GRAND DESIGN

The Old Courthouse, W14, £2,495,000

This unique converted courthouse offers a striking vaulted reception room. There is a spacious mezzanine area, dining room, media room, private patio garden, two bedrooms and three reception rooms, although the accommodation is flexible and could be rearranged.

Savills, 020 3618 3777

FESTIVE FEEL

The Red Brick House, W9, £13,950,000

Built in 1929 by the respected Scottish architect, Charles Stanley Peach, this four/five bedroom home includes a kitchen/breakfast room, study, gym with a swimming pool and steam room and, of particular note for entertaining, a cinema room and beautifully-presented dining room with ornate detailing.

Aston Chase, 020 7724 4724

Online

For more photos from this feature visit theresident.co.uk

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OAKWOOD COURT, W14

An exceptionally large and most impressive lateral apartment in this prestigious Holland Park mansion block.

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Joint Sole Agent
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If you are interested in this property please contact me.

Anthony Sharp
020 7243 8398
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This beautifully presented five bedroom apartment is located on the second floor (with lift) in Oakwood Court and offers an impressive 332 sq. m. of lateral accommodation. There is also an option to purchase a private garage by separate negotiation. Oakwood Court, which is situated opposite Holland Park, is conveniently located for the amenities of both Holland Park Avenue and Kensington High Street.

Three Reception Rooms. Eat-In Kitchen. Five Bedrooms. Three bathrooms. Cloakroom. Porter. EPC: C

£5,250,000 Leasehold

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WYNNSTAY GARDENS, W8

A light and spacious apartment in this well-regarded and conveniently located red-brick mansion block.

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Mike Spicer
020 7243 8398
mike@anthony-sharp.com

A fantastic ground floor lateral apartment offering well-proportioned accommodation in this popular portered mansion block, located just off Kensington High Street. Wynnstay Gardens is ideally situated on Allen Street and is just a few moments' walk from all the first class shopping and transport facilities of Kensington High Street.

Reception. Dining Room. Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Two Bathrooms. Porter. EPC: D

£2,950,000 Leasehold

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ALL SAINTS ROAD, W11

A stunning contemporary home located moments from Notting Hill's myriad temptations.

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William Reeve
020 7243 8398
william@anthony-sharp.com

An impressive apartment arranged over two floors with a fabulous garden to the rear. The ground floor comprises a huge reception that flows into a glazed dining area which overlooks the garden. The two bedrooms are positioned downstairs and have access to separate bathrooms. The property makes use of all its beautifully designed 1382 sq. ft. of floor area which is ideal for entertaining in this central Notting Hill location.

Two Bedrooms. Reception. Two Bathrooms. Maisonette. Ground / Lower Ground. Garden

£2,200,000 Freehold

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HOLLAND PARK GARDENS,
W14

Advantage Holland Park! A first floor apartment backing onto the Holland Park Lawn Tennis Club.

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Mike Spicer
020 7243 8398
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An unmodernised family flat situated on the first floor of this most attractive red brick mansion block in the heart of Holland Park. The reception rooms and bedrooms have excellent proportions and are wonderfully light. The flat retains virtually all its original features and benefits from superb views to the rear over the Holland Park Lawn Tennis Club. All the local shopping and transport facilities of Holland Park Avenue are close to hand.

Reception Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Two Bathrooms. Cloakroom. Lift. EPC: F

£2,350,000 Share of Freehold

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CLARENDON ROAD, W11

An exceptional family house with off-street parking and direct access to communal gardens.

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Stephan Buys
020 7243 8398
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A fantastic family house, with direct access to a superb communal garden, in prime Holland Park. This impressive property has been refurbished to a high standard and benefits from spacious living space on a grand scale. Clarendon Road is ideal for the amenities of Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill.

Drawing Room. Dining Room. Kitchen.
5 Bedrooms. 3 Bathrooms. Garden.
Communal Garden. EPC: F

£8,500 per week*

* All tenancies will incur a set up fee of £420 (incl. VAT) and, should the tenancy renew, a further renewal fee of £120 (incl. VAT) on each occasion.

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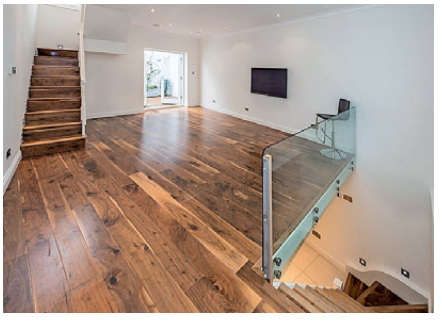

PRINCEDALE ROAD, W11

A stylish three bedroom home offering contemporary accommodation in a convenient location.

Reception. Eat In Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Two Bathrooms. Cloakroom. Patio Garden. EPC: F

£1,150 per week*

A very attractive and exceptionally light three bedroom house in Holland Park. The property offers well arranged accommodation over four storeys and includes a lovely patio garden. Situated at the northern end of Princedale Road, this property is within a short walk of the shops and cafes on Holland Park Avenue as well as Holland Park tube station (Central line).

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If you are interested in these properties please contact me.

Sophie Clarke
020 7243 8398
sophie@anthony-sharp.com

OAKWOOD COURT, W14

An impressive five bedroom apartment on the second floor of this well-regarded mansion block. Perfect for entertaining!

Five Bedrooms. Five Bathrooms. Two Reception Rooms. Unfurnished. On-site Porters. Heating & Hot Water Included. EPC: D

£1,595 per week*

A spacious five bedroom apartment on the second floor of this popular mansion block. There are two large reception rooms, a well-equipped eat-in kitchen, four double bedrooms of excellent proportions and a smaller single bedroom. Oakwood Court is situated just off Abbotsbury Road and is within walking distance of both Kensington High Street and Holland Park Avenue.

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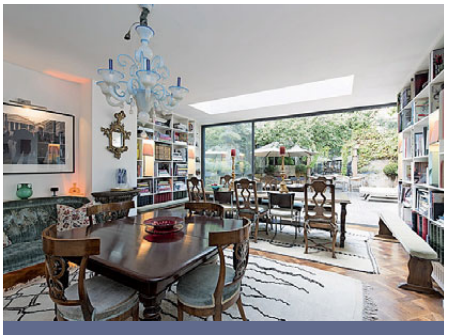
- 17% Moved to a new area
- 11% Invested or redeveloped a property
- 10% Moved to a smaller home
- 8% Bought a second home
- 3% Moved to the UK for a new job
- 3% Other wishes

KENSINGTON Guide £7.15 million

VICARAGE GARDENS W8 3,304 sq ft
5 3 3 EPC=D



KENSINGTON Guide £6.95 million

SCARSDALE VILLAS W8 2,855 sq ft
4 3 2 EPC=D

NOTTING HILL Guide £6.5 million

PEMBRIDGE VILLAS W11 2,853 sq ft
5 3 2 EPC=E

KENSINGTON Guide £5.9 million

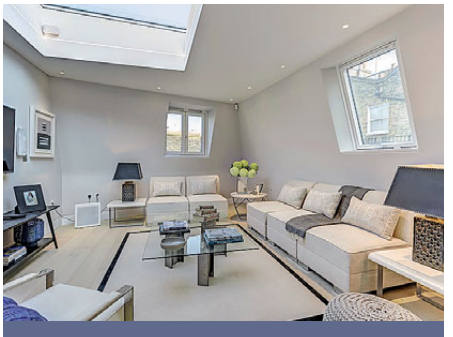
KENSINGTON CRT GDNS W8 3,313 sq ft
4 3 2 EPC=C

NOTTING HILL Guide £5.25 million

ST. JAMES'S GDNS W11 3,198 sq ft
4 2 3 EPC=D

KENSINGTON Guide £2.675 million

HOLLAND PARK W11 1,464 sq ft
2 1 2 EPC=C



NOTTING HILL Guide £1.75 million

VERNON YARD W11 897 sq ft
1 2 2 EPC=D

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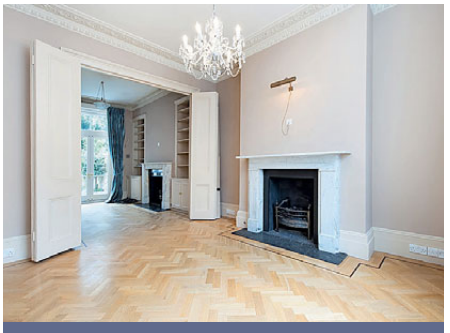
NOTTING HILL — Guide £999,500

HEREFORD ROAD W2 — 714 sq ft

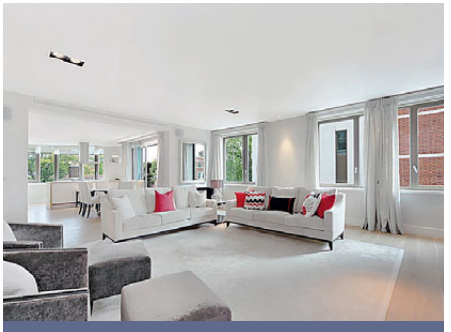
1 | 1 | 1 — EPC=E



NOTTING HILL — £2,750 pw + fees apply*

PORTLAND ROAD W11 — 2,576 sq ft

5 | 2 | 3 — EPC=E



KENSINGTON — £2,350 pw + fees apply*

TASKER LODGE W8 — 1,625 sq ft

3 | 1 | 3 — EPC=C

KENSINGTON — £2,250 pw + fees apply*

ABINGDON COURT W8 — 1,799 sq ft

3 | 2 | 2 — EPC=D

KENSINGTON — £1,650 pw + fees apply*

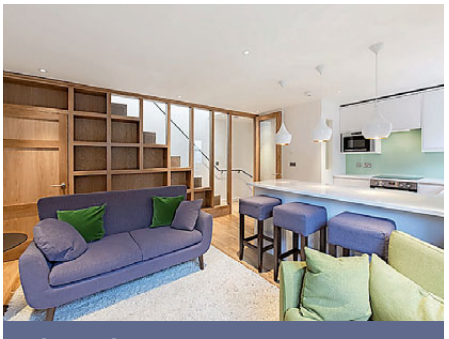
ADAM MEWS W8 — 1,952 sq ft

3 | 1 | 3 — EPC=F

NOTTING HILL — £1,100 pw + fees apply*

HOLLAND PARK AVE W11 — 1,348 sq ft

3 | 1 | 2 — EPC=C



NOTTING HILL — £800 pw + fees apply*

ALBA PLACE W11 — 828 sq ft

2 | 1 | 2 — EPC=C

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* Fees to include drawing up the tenancy agreements and reference change for one tenant - £276 inc VAT one-off fee. £36 inc VAT for each additional tenant/occupant/guarantor reference where required. Inventory check out fee – charged at the end of or early termination of the tenancy and the amount is dependant on the property size and whether furnished/unfurnished. For more details visit savills.co.uk/fees

St. James's Gardens W11, on the market for £5.25m, once featured in British film *Jack and Sarah*

MY MONTH

Ben Davies of Savills Notting Hill says the market has picked up this autumn, but bad weather can lead to some tricky situations...

What's been the most challenging aspect of your month?
The market at the moment is particularly price sensitive and it's been really important to take this into account when launching new instructions to the market. We are still achieving strong sales prices, but it is imperative to pitch the price at the correct level so as to generate a positive initial response.

What has been your personal highlight?
A property in Ladbroke Gardens exchanged at a record level for its type: a second-floor flat with a communal garden. It suffered delays due to a few complications, so it was a delight to push through the exchange and deliver the news to a very happy vendor and buyer.

Describe an exceptional property that has come onto the market...
We have a house on St. James's Gardens on the market at £5.25m. It is an elegant period house, needing some modernisation but with a stunning large private garden and views over the picturesque garden square. Its history is a bonus: it was used as the home of Richard E. Grant's character in the film *Jack and Sarah*.

What has been the most surprising thing to happen to you?
A member of our team, Abigail, broke her leg in the middle of a netball match for Savills against one of our competitors. We're still not quite sure how it happened in such a non-contact sport!

What has been the highest offer or the quickest sale to take place?
We received a very close-to-asking price offer on a flat on the market at £2.35m. It's one of those rare finds: a first-floor lateral flat spread across two buildings – highly sought after. This only goes to show that the best in class properties at all price points are still performing well in this market.

What is your favourite lunch spot?
The Cock & Bottle, just behind our office, is fantastic. It's always been a favourite but changed hands in the last few months. We went with baited breath but are pleased to report that it is still wonderful, especially its bavette steak and chips.

How has the market been performing?
It's actually become increasingly active the further we've moved into autumn. Although it's still price sensitive, we've had far more offers and sales agreed in the last two weeks than in the preceding couple of months.

What is happening next month?
We recently launched a couple of properties on Pembridge Villas; although they're different styles and prices, both have received a positive initial response. One is a gorgeous family house, and the other, a ground-level flat, has one of the best private gardens we've seen.

What has been the most unusual request from a client?
We had booked in three viewings for a flat and the vendor requested us to move the times a little in order to avoid the bad weather that was forecast and show the flat at its best!

020 7727 5750; savills.com

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STRUTT&PARKER

Pottery Lane, Holland Park, W11

£1,950 per week* Furnished

A spacious newly refurbished house in Holland Park with a private garage.

1,803 sq ft (167 sq m) EPC rating C
Reception room | Eat-in kitchen | Cinema/Third bedroom | Two double bedrooms | Three bathrooms

Notting Hill 020 7221 1111
nottinghill@struttandparker.com

Holland Park Mews, Holland Park, W11

£1,395 per week* Unfurnished

A stunning three bedroom mews house in Holland Park with the advantage of a garage.

1,386 sq ft (128.76 sq m) EPC rating D
Reception room | Kitchen | Master bedroom suite | Two further bedrooms | Bathroom | Utility area | Garage

Kensington 020 7938 3866
kensington.lettings@struttandparker.com

* The following Tenant Charges may apply prior to tenancy commencement:
Tenancy Agreement £210 (inc VAT) Credit References per application £54 (inc VAT).
All advertised prices are excluded of utility and other associated services.

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Winkworth

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON BUYING, RENTING AND SELLING HOMES

ST PETERSBURGH MEWS, W2 £2,500,000

A simply stunning mews house, blending vintage style with industrial chic perfectly and with a great deal of warmth, to create a truly unique home, one ideal for entertaining. Planning permission is also in place to add another floor above to provide for a fabulous master bedroom suite.

House | Freehold | 3 Bedrooms | 1 Reception Rooms | 1 Bathroom | Patio | Balcony | 1478 sq ft

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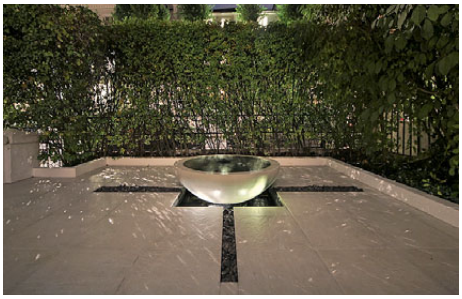

PEMBRIDGE VILLAS, W11 £1,875,000

Not one, but two simply amazing gardens, with a pretty fantastic apartment also. This exceptional two bedroom property is essentially ground floor level and has been entirely refurbished by its current owner both inside and out. It features some of the finest garden spaces in the area, making it the perfect home for both indoor and outdoor entertaining.

Share of Freehold | 2 Bedrooms | 1 Reception Rooms | 1 Bathroom | Two Gardens | 1118 sq ft

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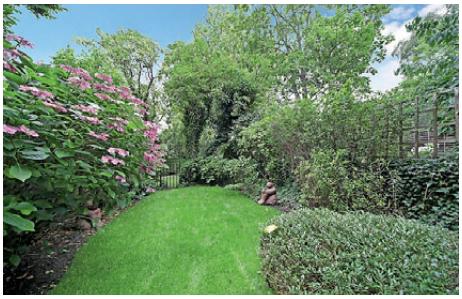

ARUNDEL GARDENS, W11 £1,770 PER WEEK

A stunning and rare opportunity to rent this wonderfully spacious 3 bedroom maisonette with a beautiful private west facing garden with direct access onto the communal gardens behind. The property further comprises a fantastic eat in kitchen with dining area and french doors overlooking the gardens behind and spiral staircase leading directly down to the private garden. Downstairs the property has three large double bedrooms, two bathrooms (one ensuite with shower steam room) separate utility room and spacious hallway.

Maisonette | 3 Bedrooms | 1 Reception Room | 2 Bathrooms | Garden | Communal Gardens | 1741 sq ft | Unfurnished

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Winkworth

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON BUYING, RENTING AND SELLING HOMES

MONMOUTH ROAD, W2 £575 PER WEEK

A beautifully presented two bedroom (one double and one single) flat on the raised ground floor of this pretty period building. The flat is newly refurbished to a very high standard and comprises a modern open-plan kitchen and reception room with dark wooden floors, double bedroom with ample storage and a single bedroom/study. The flat is in fantastic condition and is available furnished immediately.

Flat | 2 Bedrooms | 1 Reception Room | 1 Bathroom | 528 sq ft | Furnished

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MOUNTGRANGE HERITAGE mh

Ladbroke Grove, W10 £825,000 Share of Freehold

A beautiful flat occupying the first floor of this converted Victorian building situated in this sought-after location. The property benefits from high ceilings, original floorboards, feature fireplace and bay windows. Conveniently located for the amenities and transport links of Ladbroke Grove, Golborne Road and Portobello Road. EPC=D. Reception room, two double bedrooms, shower room and open-plan kitchen. **Sole Agents**

020 8960 0181 kaan@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Pembridge Villas, W11 £4,850,000 Freehold

A rare investment opportunity to acquire an unbroken freehold building comprising four self contained flats in prime Notting Hill. The apartments are currently let out producing £116,220 per annum. The flats are offered in excellent condition and are let on assured shorthold tenancies, full details of which are available upon request. EPC=D. **Sole Agents**

020 7221 2277 michael@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Logan Mews, W8 £2,900,000 Freehold

Located on a private, cobbled mews this low-built freehold house boasts charm and style. The property offers generous entertaining space, wonderful natural light and a high quality finish throughout. EPC=D. Reception/dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower room, utility room, roof terrace and private parking. **Joint Sole Agents**

020 7937 9976 chloe@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Kensington **020 7937 9976** North Kensington **020 8960 0181** Notting Hill **020 7221 2277**

MOUNTGRANGE HERITAGE mh

Lexham Gardens, W8 £1,500,000 Share of Freehold

A sophisticated first floor balcony flat which has been beautifully refurbished to a meticulous standard throughout. The apartment is approximately 905 sq ft and offers a spacious and elegant reception room with designated dining area. Lexham Gardens is a handsome street of stucco fronted period buildings in the heart of Kensington. EPC=D. Reception, bedroom, bathroom, separate study, contemporary kitchen and balcony. **Sole Agents**

020 7937 9976 chloe@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

St Quintin Avenue, W10 £900,000 Share of Freehold

A super two bedroom apartment occupying the entire second floor of this beautiful converted Victorian house in the St Quintin Conservation Area. The flat is close to the shops and restaurants on Portobello Road, Golborne Road and Notting Hill. EPC=C. Reception room, two bedrooms, bathroom, utility room and open-plan kitchen. **Sole Agents**

020 8960 0181 kaan@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Golden Cross Mews, W11 £2,100,000 Freehold

Stunning architecturally designed mews house with roof terrace in a private gated mews in the heart of Notting Hill. Located just off Basing Street with a secure pedestrian access gate directly on to Portobello Road. EPC=C. Reception, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen/dining room, roof terrace and two secure private parking spaces. **Sole Agents**

020 7221 2277 gabriella@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

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MOUNTGRANGE HERITAGE mh

St Stephens Gdns, W2 £495 per week Fees Apply
Superb flat with wonderful south-facing reception room with high ceilings and wooden floors. Close to the shops and restaurants in Notting Hill. EPC=D. Reception room, bedroom, bathroom, separate WC, kitchen and communal roof terrace. Furnished.
020 7221 2277 petra@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Pembridge Villas, W11 £675 per week Fees Apply
Stunning contemporary living space with a beautiful garden in the very heart of Notting Hill just moments from Westbourne Grove and Notting Hill tube station. EPC=D. Reception room, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and paved garden. Furnished. **Sole Agents**
020 7221 2277 abigail@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Alma Terrace, W8 £5,450 per week Fees Apply
A magnificent house in the heart of Kensington which has been redesigned to optimise space and light throughout. EPC=D. Three reception rooms, seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, cinema room, office, kitchen, garden and roof terrace. Furnished or unfurnished.
020 7221 2277 neha@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

Eynham Road, W12 £775 per week Fees Apply
A beautiful Victorian terraced house set over two floors and located on this popular tree lined corner of west London. Featuring hardwood floors, original fireplaces and French windows. EPC=E. Reception room, three bedrooms, bathroom, eat-in kitchen and private garden. Unfurnished. **Sole Agents**
020 7221 2277 abigail@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

South Edwardes Square, W8 £2,500 per week Fees Apply
A beautiful family home situated on one of Kensington's most desirable garden squares. EPC=E. Two reception rooms, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, eat-in kitchen, private south-facing garden and access to communal gardens. Unfurnished. **Sole Agents**
020 7221 2277 petra@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

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CHLOE LEEFE
MOUNTGRANGE HERITAGE

Styling your home is the key to selling your house quickly

We all know that most buyers tend to forge their opinions about a property within a few seconds of stepping over the threshold so it is absolutely vital to make your house shine over Mr and Mrs Jones' next door.

This has never been truer in the current market. Whilst it has been reported that prices are falling fast (which in my opinion is not true) it is vital you give your house the best chance of being shortlisted, if not snapped up, in the first stages of any marketing.

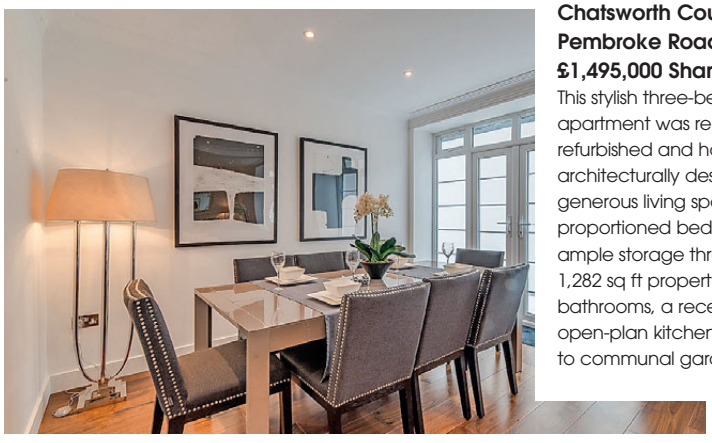
It is not always necessary to do a complete makeover – the smallest of changes can often have the biggest impact, and this is especially important in a less energised market. Not every room has to be adorned with fresh flowers or Jo Malone candles, but last night's lasagne dish in the sink or an unmade bed can be off-putting and set the wrong tone. It ultimately means that your property won't sell in a timely manner, or for the best possible price.

I was recently instructed to sell a two-bedroom apartment in Lexham Gardens.

Repaint the property, re-grout in the bathroom, clean the carpets and pick out key furniture pieces

My client wanted to sell with the tenants in situ but I advised him to wait for them to leave – the reception room had been turned into a games console den – then repaint the property, re-grout in the bathrooms, clean the carpets and use key pieces of furniture to style the flat.

He duly took note and, lo and behold, two weeks after we started marketing, we received an asking price offer. The client afterwards admitted that it was the best thing he did. So vendors, make sure you fluff your pillows, fill those cracks, vacuum that carpet and, as dull as it sounds, keep it neutral!



Chatsworth Court, Pembroke Road W8
£1,495,000 Share of Freehold
This stylish three-bedroom family apartment was recently refurbished and has been architecturally designed to create generous living space, well-proportioned bedrooms and ample storage throughout. The 1,282 sq ft property has two bathrooms, a reception room, open-plan kitchen, lift and access to communal gardens.

020 7937 9976; mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

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* Source: Google Maps. **Journey times by rail. Source: National Rail

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MY DREAM HOME

This beautiful two-bedroom apartment has access to communal grounds, plus excellent transport links

KENSINGTON GARDENS SQUARE W2

Michael Christodoulides
CENTURY 21 Sophia Elena

Why it's a great buy

This two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment sits in a white stucco Victorian building on a garden square in Bayswater. The property is moments away from Kensington Gardens, Westbourne Grove and Whiteleys shopping centre. Notting Hill, Knightsbridge and Mayfair are within easy reach.

The wow factor

This elegant apartment boasts a magnificent west-facing double reception, with high ceilings, and benefits from looking out onto communal gardens.

Who it would suit

This garden square property would be ideal for a couple or a young family, as it has two generous-sized bedrooms, two bathrooms, proximity to the park and a wide range of amenities to suit all tastes. The location would also appeal to art and restaurant connoisseurs.

My favourite room

The light-filled double reception is the home's centrepiece, offering excellent entertaining space and large windows with shutters.

Why you should buy it

This beautiful apartment is in one of the most vibrant, sought-after areas in London with green spaces on your doorstep.

020 7229 1414; century21uk.com

Chard

Kildare Gardens, W2

£4,999,999

Arranged over five floors is this attractive four bedroom family home.
Located on a popular residential road and offering a private garden

- Four bedrooms
- Elegant reception room
- Master bedroom with an en suite
- Large roof terrace
- Private garden
- Energy rating c

Notting Hill & Kensington sales
020 7243 4500

RICS Regulated Estate Agent and Letting Agent

chard.co.uk

Chard

Arundel Gardens, W11 £2,750,000

A beautifully presented, two bedroom apartment ideally located in the heart of Notting Hill

- Two double bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Open plan reception room
- High end finish throughout
- Arranged over two floors
- Energy rating e

Notting Hill & Kensington sales
020 7243 4500

Princedale Road, W11 £2,350,000

A well proportioned, two bedroom loft style apartment offering access to a flat roof

- Two bedrooms
- Split level
- Access to a flat roof
- Loft style
- Access to Holland Park
- Energy rating e

Notting Hill & Kensington sales
020 7243 4500

Chard

Queens Gate, SW7

A well proportioned, two bedroom lateral apartment with direct lift access

£2,375,000

- Two bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Separate kitchen
- Lift access
- Recently refurbished
- Energy rating d

South Kensington & Chelsea sales 020 7373 8883

Onslow Square, SW7

A spacious four double bedroom, two reception room apartment

£3,600,000

- Four bedrooms
- Three bathrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Separate kitchen
- Fifth floor
- Energy rating c

South Kensington & Chelsea sales 020 7373 8883

Palace Gardens Terrace, W8

Set within this attractive building is a two bedroom, raised ground floor apartment

£1,500,000

- Two bedrooms
- Large reception room
- Raised ground floor
- High ceilings
- Centrally located
- Energy rating c

Notting Hill & Kensington sales 020 7243 4500

Elgin Crescent, W11

This charming two bedroom, second floor apartment is ideally located in Notting Hill

£1,250,000

- Two bedrooms
- Second floor
- Access to communal gardens
- High ceilings
- Just off Kensington Park Road
- Energy rating d

Notting Hill & Kensington sales 020 7243 4500

RICS Regulated Estate Agent and Letting Agent

chard.co.uk

Chard

Melbury Road, W14

£2,500 p/w

This well proportioned family house is located on a sought after residential road in Holland Park

- Five bedrooms
- Impressive reception room
- Kitchen with dining area
- Patio garden
- High Street Kensington station
- Energy rating f

Notting Hill & Kensington lettings
020 7792 0792

Hillgate Place, W8

£1,225 p/w

A beautiful three bedroom townhouse offering two bathrooms and a private rear garden

- Three double bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- South facing living room
- Private garden
- Notting Hill Gate station
- Energy rating d

Notting Hill & Kensington lettings
020 7792 0792

Chard

Devonshire Terrace, W2

A modern two bedroom, first floor apartment with a separate kitchen and a roof terrace

£545 p/w

- Two bedrooms
- First floor
- Roof terrace
- Wood floors
- Lancaster Gate station
- Energy rating d

Bayswater & Paddington lettings 020 7402 4722

Westbourne Terrace, W2

This recently refurbished, two bedroom period apartment is ideally situated by Hyde Park

£825 p/w

- Two double bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Wood floors
- Open plan kitchen
- Lancaster Gate station
- Energy rating d

Bayswater & Paddington lettings 020 7402 4722

Kensington Church Street, W8

This attractive two bedroom, two bathroom apartment benefits from underground parking

£895 p/w

- Two double bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Underground parking
- Interior designed
- Notting Hill Gate station
- Energy rating c

Notting Hill & Kensington lettings 020 7792 0792

Westbourne Grove, W2

A well presented, two bedroom apartment located off the popular Westbourne Grove

£895 p/w

- Two double bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Stylish open plan kitchen
- A large roof terrace
- Notting Hill Gate station
- Energy rating e

Notting Hill & Kensington lettings 020 7792 0792

Tenant fees apply: £180 inc. VAT per tenancy contribution to administration, £60 inc. VAT reference fee per tenant, £144 inc. VAT towards end of tenancy check out report.

SMARTER. **BOLDER.** *FASTER.*

LANSDOWNE ROAD HOLLAND PARK W11 £1,950 per week

3 bedrooms | reception | kitchen and breakfast room | 2 bathrooms | communal gardens | parking | Epc E

www.century21uk.com/nottinghill

nottinghill@century21uk.com

Century 21
SOPHIA ELENA

QUEEN'S GARDENS BAYSWATER W2 £1,999,950 share of freehold

2 bedrooms | reception | kitchen | 2 bathrooms | first floor | high ceilings | lift | communal gardens

10 Clarendon Road London W11 3AA

020 7229 1414

The London Agent

Chard

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lettings 020 7384 1400

Paddington & Bayswater
sales 020 7402 4722
lettings 020 7402 4722

Brook Green
sales 020 7603 1415
lettings 020 7603 0603

Pimlico
sales 020 7244 4691
lettings 020 7976 5200